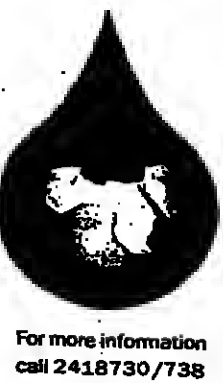


The Arabian Year Book 1987/88



ARAB TIMES

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NO 7225 SUNDAY, APRIL 17, 1988 RAMADAN I, 1408 AH 16 PAGES 150 FILLS

Amir cancels Ramadan receptions

HH the Amir of Kuwait will not receive well-wishers during the holy month of Ramadan out of respect for victims of the Kuwait Airways hijacking.

He made the decision "out of sympathy for the families of the martyrs and those hijacked on the Kuwaiti airliner and in response to the feelings of citizens and residents alike toward this sad incident."

HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah will also not receive well-wishers during Ramadan.

The step was taken in solidarity with the families of the two Kuwaitis killed by the hijackers.

Ramadan begins

THE Ministry of Justice announced last night that holy month of Ramadan in Kuwait will begin today.

Saudi Arabia, North Yemen, Qatar and Jordan also announced that they will start fasting today.

While Iraq and Oman said that tomorrow will be the first day of Ramadan.

During Ramadan, the last ferry will leave from Kuwait for Fakhra at 1 a.m. and the last ferry from Fakhra to Kuwait will start at 1:45 a.m.

This was announced yesterday by the chairman and managing director of Kuwait Public Transport Company (KPTC), Abdul Wahhab Al Haroun.

The President of the UAE Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan, has pardoned 95 prisoners to mark the month of Ramadan.

Sudanese premier quits

KHARTOUM, April 16, (Reuters): Sudanese Prime Minister Sadeq al Mahdi said today he had submitted his resignation to the Supreme Council, a five-man joint presidency.

He told Parliament that he hoped to form a new national unity government by Monday.

INSIDE	
International	2
Kuwait-Gulf	3,4
Events	5
Editorials	6
Pictures	7
Features	8,9
Business	10
Currencies	11
Classifieds	12
Urdu	13,14
Sports	15,16

آج کے اردو صفحات میں

- ہائی جیکروں کی طرف سے
- اردن کی فوجی کامیابی
- فلسطینی کانڈر ایرو جہاز کو قتل کروایا گیا
- راولپنڈی کے فوجی ڈپوشین
- پھر دھماکہ
- پشاور کے قریب سرکاری
- نور سزاؤ قباہوں میں لڑائی
- مراسلات
- یوسفیات

WEATHER

CLOUDS will increase gradually with a moderate southerly wind freshening at times.

State of sea: moderate to rough

High water: 12.00 noon

Low water: 6.30 am, 7.00 pm

Sunrise: 5.20 am

Sunset: 6.16 pm

Maximum temperature recorded: Kuwait: 31°C 88°F

Ahmad: 26°C 79°F

Fallaka: 38°C 100°F

Minimum temperature recorded: Kuwait: 18°C 64°F

Ahmad: 21°C 70°F

Fallaka: 20°C 68°F

Maximum temperature expected: Kuwait: 32°C 90°F

Ahmad: 28°C 82°F

Fallaka: 29°C 84°F

Maximum humidity recorded: Kuwait: 85 per cent

Ahmad: 93 per cent

Fallaka: 89 per cent

Maximum humidity expected: Kuwait: 85 per cent

Ahmad: 89 per cent

Fallaka: 92 per cent

Hijackers demand fuel Threat to kill all hostages

ALGIERS, April 16, (Agencies): Hijackers holding 31 hostages aboard a Kuwait Airways jumbo jet, declaring "we do not fear death," demanded fuel today so that they could fly out and take their captives outside Algeria. They also threatened to kill all the hostages.

It was the first time the hijackers directly threatened to kill the hostages since landing in Algiers.

On three occasions, passengers have pleaded for their lives in radio messages to the control tower.

HH the Amir of Kuwait tonight phoned Algerian President Chedli Benjedid.

The official Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) said HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah told Algerian Prime Minister Abdelhamid Brahimi by telephone that the jumbo jet should not be allowed to leave. "It is important to prevent the plane from leaving the soil of sisterly Algeria and all necessary measures to protect the lives of the innocent hostage passengers on the plane should be taken," KUNA quoted Sheikh Saad as telling Brahimi.

The gunmen, believed to number eight, summoned three journalists to the plane for what they called a news conference. They made the death threat in a statement in Arabic in which they insisted on the release of 17 Arabs jailed in Kuwait.

While one of the hijackers sat just inside the door cradling a sub-machine gun, another told the journalists:

Indication

"We are asking our Algerian brothers to fill the plane with fuel."

Algerian authorities have not given any indication that they agreed to refuel the plane. However, they have said they

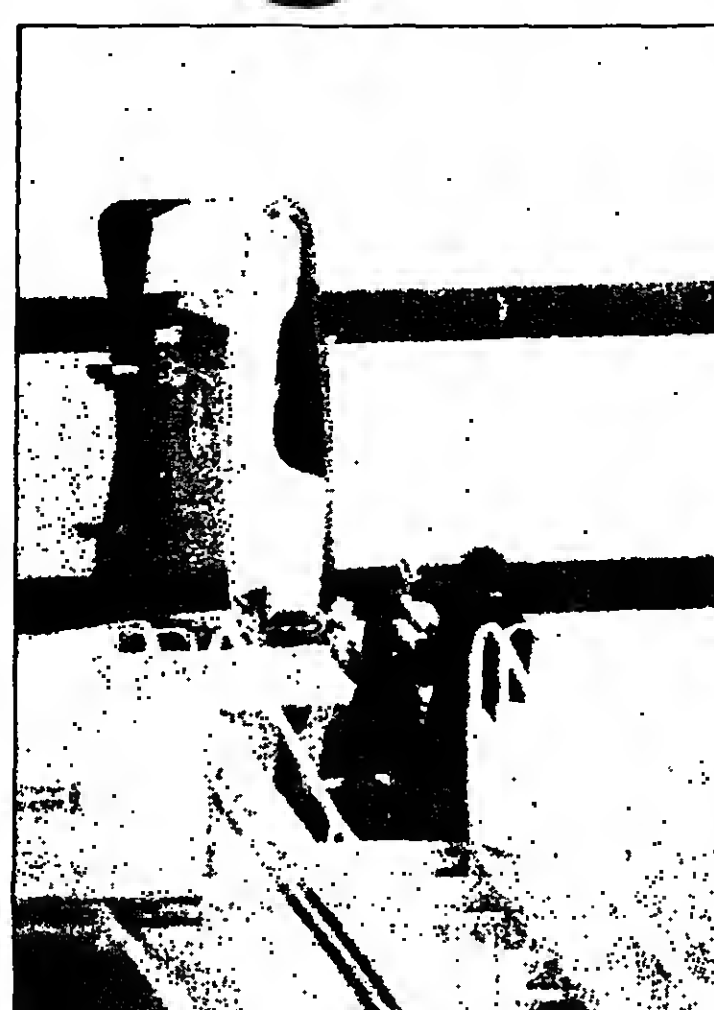
Trained in Iran

One air pirate linked to TWA hijacking

NEW YORK, April 16, (Agencies): One of the hijackers of the Kuwait jet now in Algiers is believed to be a Lebanese wanted in the United States for a 1985 hijacking in which an American Navy diver was killed, the New York Times reported today.

It said US administration officials believe the suspect, identified as Hassan Izz Al Din, is among four men indicted by a federal grand jury in 1985 on charges of air piracy and murder for the hijacking of Trans World Airlines (TWA) flight 847.

They were quoted as saying Izz Al Din could have been directly involved in the murder of Navy diver Robert Dean Stethem, who was badly beaten and shot. The 15-count indictment charged



Journalists selected to talk to the hijackers kneel outside the door of the Kuwaiti airliner. (Reuters wirephoto)

Missile duel between Iraq and Iran flares

NICOSIA, April 16, (Agencies): Iraq fired six long-range missiles into Tehran and two other Iranian cities today and the Iranians said they fired two back in the heaviest missile barrage in the "war of the cities" in 10 days.

Iraq's official Islamic Republic News Agency, said the Iraqi missiles that hit Tehran crashed into residential neighbourhoods.

It reported many casualties, but gave no specific figures.

It said missiles exploded in the central city of Isfahan, and the holy city of Qom, 100 miles (160 kilometres) south of Tehran.

Iran said Iranian Revolutionary Guards fired two missiles at "military centres" in Baghdad several hours later. The official Iraqi News Agency reported only one missile hitting the city, killing an unspecified number of civilians in a residential neighbourhood.

Raid

The Iraqis also said their fighter-bombers raided the western Iranian cities of Dezful and Hamadan.

Iran said four civilians were killed and others wounded in the bombing raids on Dezful, a garrison town in southwest Iran, and Hamadan.

The Iranians reported 24 civilians were killed in Iraqi air raids on one Iranian cities yesterday.

Declared

The hostilities flared as the US Navy missile frigate Samuel B. Roberts limped into Dubai in the southern Gulf after it was holed by a mine on Thursday. Ten of the warship's 225-man crew were wounded in the blast.

Shipping executives in Bahrain said that a 10-mile (16-km) stretch of the central Gulf has been declared a navigational hazard area because of suspected mines.

The executives and Western diplomats, speaking on condition of anonymity, said they believe that the Iranians laid the

Gaza is burning 13 slain in bloodiest day of violence

OCCUPIED Jerusalem, April 16, (Reuters): Israeli troops shot dead 13 Palestinians today in the bloodiest day of a four-month uprising in occupied areas during protests against the killing of top PLO commander Khalil Al Wazir, Arafat and UN sources said.

They said eight protesters were killed in the occupied Gaza Strip and five in the West Bank in the highest death toll on any day since the uprising began on Dec 9.

Israeli security sources confirmed eight of the deaths and said they were checking the others.

The 13 deaths, if confirmed, would raise to 156 the number of Palestinians killed in the violence, the worst in more than 20 years of Israeli occupation. Two Israelis have died in the uprising.

Attacks

Israel declined comment on PLO accusations that it was responsible for killing Al Wazir, military deputy to PLO leader Yasser Arafat, in his home in a northern suburb of Tunis overnight.

"We have absolutely no comment," an Army spokeswoman said.

Israel Radio said Al Wazir, alias Abu Jihad, was behind some of the bloodiest commando attacks against Israel, including the hijacking of a civilian bus last month in which three Israelis and three Palestinian gunmen were killed.

UN officials identified the dead Palestinians in the Gaza Strip as Jamal Hussein Shihadeh, 18, Atwa Abu Arar, 17, Yasser Ahmed Al Sharif, 14, Tahir Al Bajdi, 17, Jamal Al Jamal, 35, Ayman Amir Abu Ammar, 22, and Fikri Ibrahim Daghmeh, 22.

Palestinian sources said Mohammed Abu Jazr, 20, from Rafah was also killed by the Army.

Hospital officials in the West Bank said three Palestinians were shot dead in Jenin town and a nearby refugee camp. Palestinian sources identified them as Bassam Harari, 25, Hilmi Ibrahim Abdallah, 23, and a 40-year-old woman, Sadah Abdallah Karawi.

Another woman, Halah Awad Amireh, 20, was shot dead in Habbah village near Kalkiya, Palestinian and Israeli sources said. A further 10 protesters were wounded by gunfire in the clash including a nine-year-old, shot three times in the face.

Suspected

In the West Bank town of Kabatiyeh, where Palestinians lynched and hanged an Arab suspected of collaborating with Israel, 20-year-old Mobyee Kneil was shot dead during clashes which lasted several hours. Arab and hospital sources said.

A senior UN official said it was by far the bloodiest day in the Gaza Strip since the start of the uprising.

"There is turmoil everywhere. There are a lot of wounded from live ammunition as well as tear gas. There are curfews on all the main towns and camps."

"I'm not surprised. Abu Jihad has Gaza connections," the official said.

One eyewitness said: "There are burning tyres and smoke everywhere. It looks as if the whole Strip is on fire."

PLO military commander Abu Jihad killed

TUNIS, April 16, (AP): An eight-member assassination squad today shot its way into the home of Khalil Al Wazir, military commander of the PLO, killing him in a hail of machine-gun fire as he emerged from his study, the PLO said.

The organisation immediately blamed Israel. It was the second strike at the PLO on Tunisian territory since the movement moved its headquarters to suburban La Marsa after it was driven from Lebanon by the invasion of the Israeli Army in 1982.

The assassination raised the perspective of intensified violence in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, where news of the 52-year-old Al Wazir's death led to an eruption of rioting with at least 13 Palestinians shot to death, according to Arab reports.



Al Wazir

Vehicles

The PLO said Al Wazir popularly known as Abu Jihad was riddled with more than 100 bullets by the assassination team, which included a woman. No arrests have been made, but Tunisian sources reported that three vehicles possibly used in the 1:15 am attack were found on a beach about 40 kilometres (25 miles) north of Tunis.

A PLO spokesman said a Tunisian bodyguard and two Palestinian bodyguards also died in the attack. Reports from PLO sources in Nicosia, that a second commando was involved in the operation, providing cover outside, could not be immediately confirmed.

Al Wazir was the most senior Palestinian official to be assassinated since the founding of Fatah, the largest group in the PLO, in 1964. He was PLO chairman Yasser Arafat's closest aide, a member of the PLO executive committee, the No. 2 man in Fatah, and was in charge of military operations inside the occupied territories.

Burst

The PLO said Al Wazir was in the study of his house, reading, when the attackers drove up to the house, killed a Tunisian bodyguard in a car outside, then burst into the house and killed the two other bodyguards.

"They then broke into Abu Jihad's study," said a PLO spokesman who refused to give his name. "Everything happened within seconds. He had drawn his pistol to defend himself but

Kuwait to take care of Al Wazir's family

THE Kuwaiti cabinet yesterday condemned the assassination of deputy general commander of the Palestinian revolutionary forces, Khalil Al Wazir in Tunis on Friday night.

The cabinet also hoped that the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner Al Jabriya will end soon.

HH the Amir has ordered the allocation of a stipend for the family of Al Wazir.

The Amir's decision came in appreciation of Al Wazir and his struggle for realising victory for Palestine.

Denounced

The Amir also sent a cable of condolences to the PLO chairman Yasser Arafat over the assassination.

Following the cabinet meeting, presided over by HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah, the State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Al Rashed said that the ministers strongly denounced the killing of Al Wazir.

The cabinet expressed confidence that this incident will make the Palestinian people more determined to continue their uprising against the occupation until their legitimate right of establishing an independent state on their soil and under the leadership of the Palestine

Liberation Organisation is achieved.

Sheikh Saad sent a cable of condolences to PLO chairman Yasser Arafat over the assassination of Al Wazir.

He sent condolences on his behalf and in the name of all cabinet members.

Contacts

Rashed also said that the cabinet followed up the developments of the hijacked plane and contacts made by Algerian officials in a bid to seek the release of the hostages.

The cabinet praised Kuwaiti people's unified stand in confronting challenges and crises that target Kuwait's security and stability.

The cabinet expressed deep appreciation of the Kuwaiti people's support to the government in rejecting all kinds of blackmail and intimidation. Rashed said.

He also noted that the government thanked the stand of Arab countries' efforts to end the hijacking. The Lebanese were particularly mentioned.

The cabinet affirmed that efforts will continue to find a peaceful solution to the hijacking and secure the release of all those innocent people, who are held hostages on board the plane while maintaining Kuwait's firm principles.

Al Wazir mourned

NICOSIA, April 16, (Agencies): The Arab world today mourned the death of PLO leader Khalil Al Wazir, who was assassinated last night in Tunisia.

George Habash, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine issued a statement addressed to the children of the uprising: "The blood of Abu Jihad (Al Wazir's alias) cannot be shed for nothing."

Echoed

In Lebanon, thousands of Palestinian refugees were in mourning.

Palestinian factions at the Aio El Hijweh and Miyeh Miyeh refugee camps announced three days of mourning and a general strike tomorrow.

Prayers from the Quran echoed across the shanty towns, where most women wore black. Cars displaying posters of Al Wazir toured the streets of Sidon in south Lebanon.

Egypt's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Boutros Boutros Ghali, said: "We vehemently condemn and regard with extreme shock and repugnance this criminal act against the PLO leadership."

The Grand Sheikh of Al Azhar, Egypt's highest religious authority, urged Palestinians to



Sheikh Hamad

Gulf war will end if arms merchants stop selling weapons

Hijacking well-timed: Sheikh Hamad

By Ahmed Jarallah

THE Bahraini Crown Prince Sheikh Hamad Bin Issa Al Khalifa, has said that the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner was well-planned and well-timed. He suggested that it was no coincidence that it occurred at a time when the Iraq-Iran "war of the cities" was escalating and when the Palestinian uprising was intensifying.

In an exclusive interview, the Crown Prince expressed his respect for the Kuwaiti people and supported the stand taken by its leadership refusing to give in to the demands of the hijackers.

Sheikh Hamad said: "... I believe there are forces behind this well-planned incident, not only in its execution, but in its timing as well." He did not elaborate the forces that he felt influenced or controlled the hijackers' action.

Refuses

He was unequivocal in his opinion of the Iraq-Iran war and said emphatically: "This war can be stopped if the merchants of arms and weapons want to."

He added, some think that Iran refuses to mediate because if the war comes to an end it will automatically mean the downfall of the Iranian regime which has failed to fulfil its promises about the war. He explained that this issue, plus the fact that the war continues to be supported by arms producers make an end to the war unlikely.

Iraq has accepted peace, approved the Security Council resolutions and welcomed regional and international

media efforts, he said. "But the war will continue until the Iranian leadership realises the cost of the war and is convinced that there is no reason for it to continue."

The Crown Prince cautioned against thinking of the war as an Iraq-Iran war, or even a Gulf war. "It is rather the war of the whole world, since its influence and effect reach the interests of the world."

He maintains that the failure of countries to anticipate the

(Continued on Page 4)

INTERNATIONAL

Afghan accord provides no undertaking

Pakistan won't expel rebels

ISLAMABAD, April 16, (Reuters): Pakistan said today it was not bound under a United Nations-mediated settlement to drive out Afghan rebels based in the country.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Zain Noorani told reporters Pakistan had given no such undertaking in the settlement it signed with the Soviet-backed Afghan government on Thursday in Geneva.

The agreement, guaranteed by the United States and the Soviet Union, provides for the withdrawal of an estimated 115,000 Soviet troops in Afghanistan and return of about three million Afghan refugees in Pakistan.

Notion
The accord says Pakistan and Afghanistan may not harbour or arm individuals or groups "for the purpose of creating subversion, disorder or unrest" in the other country.

Noorani, speaking on return from Geneva where he signed the agreement for Pakistan, said the rebels opposed to the Kabul government were not mercenaries or terrorists but freedom-fighters.

"Have we given any undertaking anywhere in the Geneva agreement that such people would not stay in Pakistan?" he asked.

"So it is a mistaken notion that any such undertaking has been given."

Under the agreement, Soviet troops must withdraw by February 15, 1988, half of them leaving in three months from May 15.

Noorani said he thought all Soviet troops would be out of Afghanistan by the end of the year.

Offer

The agreement neither provides for a ceasefire between the Kabul government and the guerrillas nor hinders supplies to the warring parties.

Noorani called it a first step towards a comprehensive solution of the Afghan problem.

But he said hostilities would end only after the present Afghan government of Najibullah was replaced by one acceptable to "all segments of the Afghan people."

He said if the Soviet Union

continued supplying arms to the Kabul government, the guerrillas would also have the right to receive arms from abroad.

Meanwhile, Afghan President Najibullah has renewed a peace offer to rebels after the signing of a UN-mediated Geneva settlement providing for an estimated 115,000 Soviet troops to leave his country.

In a message broadcast over the official Kabul Radio last night, he urged the Western-backed guerrillas to end the nine-year-old war and take seats in parliament, after elections were declared over on Thursday.

The guerrillas had rejected earlier Kabul offers to join a coalition government with Najibullah's People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) which they call communist, as well as to contest the elections.

"We are repeating our message to the opponents for the welfare of the people, for the future of our children and for establishing peace," Najibullah said.

"We extend our hand of friend-

ship to you," he told the rebels, who have planned a rally near the northwestern Pakistani town of Peshawar to declare a formal response to the settlement.

The Pakistan-based main guerrilla alliance had earlier called the elections for a two-chamber parliament, which began on April 5, a gimmick to deceive the Afghans and the world.

Najibullah said seats had been kept vacant for the rebels. "The government is ready to assist those who are against bloodshed," he said.

US officials who helped negotiate the documents which set the stage for the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan believe that the signing will not end the fighting.

The four documents, in which the United States signs as co-guarantor, commits the Soviets to withdraw its troops by February 1989.

One US official said, "It's a lousy legal document, but it serves the practical purpose of permitting the Soviet to withdraw, and so we signed it for that reason. No lawyer likes it."

Washington guarding its Mideast role

Arabs criticise US veto

UNITED NATIONS, April 16, (AP): The United States has come under heavy criticism for vetoing a Security Council resolution urging Israel to stop deporting Palestinians from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Claiming that the resolution was unfair to Israel, US Ambassador Herbert Okun cast the only vote last night against the measure approved by the Council's 15 other members — including such close American allies as Britain and West Germany.

Several Arab diplomats accused the United States of jealously guarding its own role in the Middle East by trying to paralyse the Security Council.

Arab League spokesman Clovis Makoud said the veto had "mortally wounded" the latest US peace initiative and

would encourage Israel to mistreat the 1.5 million Palestinians living under Israeli occupation.

Makoud told a news conference later that the veto "ratifies that level of permissiveness that has emboldened Israel to defy the international community."

Measures

British Ambassador John Birch criticised Israel for brutal and often indiscriminate actions against civilians and called measures such as deportation "immoral, illegal and politically self-defeating."

"World opinion has been shocked and disgusted — rightly, so — by the widespread suffering of the civilian population of all ages and both sexes," Birch said.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation envoy, Zehdi

Terzi, told the Council the United States had isolated itself by killing the resolution.

"There's always a rotten apple in the box," he said.

In casting the veto, Okun said the resolution's "broad and sweeping condemnation of Israel contains not a scintilla of balance. It contains no appeal or request for calm."

The measure urged Israel to halt deportations, condemned human rights violations in the occupied territories and called for a UN-sponsored settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Unrest
Israel deported eight Palestinian civilians earlier this week and issued deportation orders for 12 others in its attempt to quell four months of unrest that has claimed at least 146 Arab lives so far.

Gypsies sing their woes away in Belgrade

BELGRADE, April 16, (Reuters): Gypsy entertainers from eight European countries sang and danced their woes away until early this morning at a musical event to celebrate Romy culture and appeal for human rights.

Thousands of people, including gypsies and their supporters, cheered the soloists and ensembles in a Belgrade sports hall at the show in honour of a group that is discriminated against in many countries.

"This is great. But unfortunately music and dancing won't solve problems," said Sait Balic, head of the Romy Union, an organisation representing some 15 million Romanes, popularly known as gypsies, from 26 countries. Referring to his people as "eternal world wanderers," Balic told Reuters they were still deprived of basic human rights in many countries, looked upon with scorn and forced to assimilate with host populations.

Representation

His organisation, founded in 1971 at a congress in London, sought improved human rights for gypsies everywhere and was striving to obtain some sort of representation in the United Nations, he said.

"We are very loyal to the countries we live in. We do not demand territorial autonomy, just equal treatment with others and the right to equal employment, schooling, our language, culture and tradition," Balic, 57, said.

Apart from India and Pakistan, home of half of the 30 million world gypsy population, they live mostly in Romania, Hungary, Poland, Yugoslavia, Greece and the Soviet Union and their status varies from one country to another, Balic said.



● About 228,425 pirated cassette tapes, costing \$700,000 are being crushed by a bulldozer in Singapore. The destruction is the fifth since 1984, conducted by the International Federation of Phonogram and Videogram Producers. (Reuters wirephoto).

Deng wishes stability for Philippines

Aquino wins China's support

BEIJING, April 16, (Reuters): Philippine President Corason Aquino said China's senior leader Deng Xiaoping had pledged the Chinese communist Party's support for her government during their meeting today.

"When I asked Chairman Deng Xiaoping if he would strongly support the Aquino administration, he said indeed he would and he did this in the name of the Communist Party of China," Aquino told a news conference in Beijing's Great Hall of the People.

The 55-year-old President, who has survived five coup attempts since he came to power in 1986, said she was pleased to receive strong support from China's leaders but gave no details of what form this would take.

She described 83-year-old Deng as a man she greatly

admired and "one of the great figures of this century."

Deng launched China onto the road of reform in 1978 after surviving two periods in political exile. He holds the powerful post of chairman of the party's central military commission.

Reporters present during the first few minutes of their meeting said Deng told Aquino he was confident she would achieve full stability in the Philippines.

Aquino also told the news conference she and Deng had agreed to set aside temporarily their dispute over sovereignty of the Spratly islands in the South China Sea.

Meanwhile, troops raided the suspected hideout of the fugitive leader of an August coup attempt hours after capturing 10 of his followers nearby, the military said today.

Former Lieut. Col. Gregorio

Honasan was not to be found, the military said.

A military spokesman said interrogation of 10 Honasan followers arrested late yesterday in a raid on a nearby house continued.

Officials claimed yesterday's raids in suburban Quezon city foiled a plot by Honasan and his followers to attack the presidential palace. The raids came as the military was on alert against any coup attempt while Aquino was visiting China.

Col. Emiliano Templo, commander of the raiding party, said the plotters planned to approach the place in rubber boats down a tributary of the Pasig river, which flows behind the palace in the heart of Manila.

But the military was tipped off about the plot, "so we acted quickly," Templo said. "We preempted the plan."

Hong Kong drug ring crushed

HONG KONG, April 16, (AP): Authorities said today they crushed an international drug-trafficking ring with the arrests of 11 men and the seizure of heroin worth \$45 million believed bound for the United States.

The arrests Thursday and Friday in this British colony resulted from a joint US-Hong Kong investigation, codenamed Operation Bamboo Dragon, that involved FBI and local undercover agents, said Chris Cantley, a top official with the police narcotics bureau.

The probe also led to the arrests of nine people and the seizure of more heroin in the United States.

The 11 men, including one US citizen, were to appear in central magistracy. Cantley said the suspects will be charged with dangerous drug offences.

Cantley said the suspects belonged to four local drug supply sources loosely connected with one another. All the arrested men were considered "very significant and we are not looking for anybody else in connection with the operation," he said at a news conference.

About 28 kilograms (62 pounds) of No. 4-grade heroin were seized during delivery to undercover officers, Cantley said. Some of the 11 were arrested after they negotiated for the sale of the heroin, while others were apprehended in the process of delivering the drugs, he said.

Jerusalem should be international city, says Jackson

NEW YORK, April 16, (Reuters): Democratic presidential candidate Jesse Jackson

apologised last night for calling Jews "hymies" but refused to break openly with a black extremist who once called Hitler "a great man."

In a television interview, Jackson also said Jerusalem should become an international city, jointly ruled by Palestinians and Israelis.

He spoke as a new poll said he was gaining on front-runner Michael Dukakis. A top campaign aide for the Massachusetts Governor said the race was much closer than the polls showed.

In the interview, Jackson refused to break openly with black Muslim leader Louis Farrakhan, who has called Judaism "a gutter religion" in addition to saying Hitler was a great man.

Rule

Jackson, a black civil rights leader, said Farrakhan had no involvement in his campaign and he had no public dealings with him. But when pressed about why he had not broken openly with Farrakhan, Jackson said: "It's not necessary."

Jackson also said he envisioned Jerusalem as "an international city, a city that will attract people from the three great religions."

He said he favoured rule being shared by both Israelis and Pal-

estines. "It could very well be a sharp rule," he said.

Israel, which annexed East Jerusalem after the 1967 war, regards Jerusalem as a unified city and the capital of the Jewish state.

In the interview, Jackson again apologised for calling Jews "hymies," a remark that created a furor when he made it in 1984 and still continues to haunt him now.

On Thursday, an ABC news poll gave Dukakis 49 per cent to 34 per cent for Jackson and eight per cent for longest shot Albert Gore, a Tennessee senator, while a CBS poll gave Dukakis 45 per cent, Jackson 28 per cent and Gore eight per cent.

But on Friday, a one-day ABC tracking poll showed Dukakis dropping to 44 per cent, with 37 per cent for Jackson and 10 per cent for Gore.

Dukakis's operations director, Jack Corrigan, said the race was much closer than polls showed.

"The one thing that we know about polls is that they are very influenced by turnout and in a primary, they are much less reliable than they are in a general election," he said on television.

"I think that every public poll taken before every preceding contest has underestimated the reverend Jackson and I think you'll see a significant turnout of his supporters."

Dhaka seeks death for human trade

DHAKA, April 16, (AP): The government will introduce a bill in parliament seeking the death penalty for people trafficking in human beings, especially those who force women into brothels in other countries, an official said.

Home Minister Abdul Matin, addressing security forces in the border village of Rajshahi on Friday, said the bill will be introduced in the next session of parliament on April 25.

Officials in Dhaka earlier this month reported that border guards rescued 100 men, 82 women and 72 children from human traffickers during the past 11 months. More than 25 people were arrested in connection with the crime.

Bangladeshi people, eager to escape extreme poverty, are lured by traffickers with promises of jobs in India, Pakistan and the Middle East. The traffickers call themselves "man-power agents."

Women often load up in brothels in India or Pakistan and men and children are forced to take up low-paying jobs under conditions of virtual slavery, officials said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

27 rebels killed

COLOMBO, April 16, (Reuters): Indian troops in Sri Lanka have killed 27 guerrillas and wounded 36 in the past 24 hours, Sri Lankan state radio said today.

Quoting Indian military officials, the radio said the rebels were members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the main guerrilla group fighting for a Tamil homeland in northern and eastern Sri Lanka.

The report said 34 rebel hideouts had also been destroyed and 112 men captured in operations in northern Sri Lanka.

Rainstorm kills 10

DHAKA, April 16, (AP): A rainstorm that hit the capital has left 10 dead and more than 300 people injured, authorities said today.

Hospital sources said that four people were killed when their houses collapsed in the northern Nakhapara residential area during the storm late yesterday. The victims included a 3-year-old girl.

Police officials said that three people died in similar house collapse in Kenaigan, a southern suburb of the city. Two others were killed in Sylhet district while one person was electrocuted on the outskirts of Dhaka, said the officials, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Freighter sinks

HONG KONG, April 16, (AP): A Chinese freighter that ran up against rocks sank off the southern coast of China, and 18 of the 22 crew members drowned, said an official Chinese report appearing today.

The freighter Jianhai 09 sank early Wednesday while travelling northeast from the British colony of Hong Kong to the Chinese port of Shantou in Guangdong province, the China News Service said.

Four of the 22 crew members were rescued about 15 hours after by a passing freighter, the report said. The remaining crew drowned, and five bodies were discovered on Thursday, it said.

Plane crash

BRISBANE, Australia, April 16, (AP): A twin-engine aircraft crashed today near Biggenden, about 180 miles (290 kilometres) north of Brisbane, killing the two occupants, police said.

A police spokesman said the private plane apparently crashed into the side of a mountain and caught fire. The spokesman, who was not identified, said the plane had smashed into small pieces on impact.

On Thursday, four people were killed in a light plane accident in New South Wales state.

Mathias Rust

HELSINKI, April 16, (Reuters): Finland has decided not to prosecute Mathias Rust, the young West German who landed a small plane in Moscow's Red Square last year, an official statement said today.

The statement said Finnish authorities felt a four-year prison term Rust is serving in the Soviet Union was sufficient punishment.

The 19-year-old flew over the Finnish-Soviet border without permission last May and reached Moscow without interference by Soviet air defence forces. He said his trip was intended to foster international goodwill.

Burnt alive

NEW DELHI, April 16, (Reuters): Suspected Sikh separatists tied up two employees of a north Indian cold store and then set fire to the store, burning one victim alive, the Press Trust of India said today.

The news agency said the separatists assaulted a watchman and a mechanic at the Amritsar district store in northern Punjab state last night.

The mechanic died in the flames and the watchman was injured.

PTI said seven other people, including two local leaders of a rightwing Hindu political party, were killed on Friday in violence by extremists fighting for an independent Sikh homeland.

Building collapse

BEIJING, April 16, (AP): Nine junior high school students were crushed to death and four others injured when their dormitory collapsed while they were sleeping, an official report said today.

The state-run People's Daily said the boys' dormitory at the Mianjin junior high school in Wannan County, Jiangxi province, collapsed late Monday.

Drug arrests

ROME, April 16, (AP): Authorities in Rome have arrested 22 people and confiscated five kilograms (11 pounds) of pure cocaine valued at \$5.7 million and \$50,000 in cash, Italian news media reported today.

The arrests, which began last week, capped a three-month investigation into the international trafficking of cocaine and heroin through Rome.

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Traffic law under study for amendment

Driving schools to open next year

By Lima Al Khalafawi

THE issue of driving licences is linked with the opening of driving schools so that new drivers would be aware of all traffic rules and fully competent, the director-general of the General Traffic Department, Brigadier Fouad Musaed Al Saleh, said.

This would help to reduce traffic accidents, he added.

The driving schools will start early next year, once the establishments are complete. The first school will be in the Capital Governorate, but other governorates are included in the scheme.

Evaluate

Brig Al Saleh said that a committee had been formed to study and evaluate the current traffic law and to present suggestions for amending the traffic law to best suit the conditions and future changes in society.

He said there was no law until now to oblige drivers to wear safety belts except officers at the Interior Ministry, but the matter was under study and likely to be included in the amendment of the new traffic law.



Al Saleh

He said the ministry always provided traffic police according to the duty schedule and that the road patrols were well prepared. Due to the increase in population on the outskirts of the city, however, great efforts and more traffic police were required. There is a balance in the deployment of policemen according to needs and circumstances.

He said that roundabout signs were provided in order to organ-

ise traffic flow and cut down accidents. It was noticed that drivers followed such signs because they provided a more secure and safer flow of traffic. It is not possible to assign a policeman to every sign or stoplight, Al Saleh said.

Learners licences

Regarding the driving schools, he said they had already formed boards of directors and appointed a director-general and had taken some administrative measures.

He said that renewal of old learners licences would be resumed in certain cases. He said that all people were equal before the law and punishment would apply to all.

Deaths

He said that security units on the roads would catch violators under the legal age of 18 years and refer them to the traffic court. Judgements of the courts would be enforced. He added that the number of violations had fallen since punishments were enforced. The Kuwaiti courts stressed that such violators were a danger to the public.

Brig Al Saleh said that 273 deaths occurred in Kuwait during 1987 as a result of traffic accidents. Of these, 73 persons were Kuwaitis and 200 expatriates.

The public relations section at the Traffic Department implements traffic awareness programmes. These programmes have had a positive effect in preventing the rise of traffic accident rates during the past few years.

The information centre and traffic department are preparing a project and studies on the possibility of renewing driving licences through the post.

This project is considered the first step towards providing other facilities, such as paying traffic fines at post offices, and the department will conduct feasibility studies on such future plans.

Brig Al Saleh said that individuals should comply with traffic laws, pointing out that all traffic accidents were the result of failure to comply with traffic laws.

Greater traffic awareness would help to stamp out the bad habits of motorists, he said.

GCC donations to Palestinians praised

RIYADH, April 16, (Kuna): In a cable to GCC general secretariat, Prince Salman Bin Abdul Aziz, Prince of Riyadh and chairman of the public committee for helping Palestinian freedom fighters, expressed thanks for the secretariat's donations in support of the Palestinian people.

The cable, received by GCC secretary general Abdullah Bishtawi, said your contributions materialise solidarity among Arab countries in support of the people of Palestine.

Dhaka tea team surveys market

A BANGLADESHI tea trade delegation led by the Chairman of the Tea Board, Dr Nazrul Islam, visited Kuwait from April 11-14, 1988 to explore market possibilities for Bangladeshi tea in Kuwait.

They met a large number of tea importers, distributors, dealers and retailers who have shown keen interest in Bangladeshi tea because of its quality and natural flavour.

Bangladesh exports tea to several Middle East countries including Kuwait and is looking for greater market opportunities.

US veto criticised

SANAA, April 16, (Kuna): A Yemeni daily newspaper strongly criticised the US vetoing of a UN Security Council resolution asking Israel not to deport the Palestinians from their homeland and to abide by the Geneva Convention on the conditions of civilians at a time of war.

Al Thawra newspaper said in an editorial that by this step, the US is protecting Israel's challenge to the international community and its violation of the international norms and charters and "is blessing any crime it (Israel) commits and urges it to commit more crimes."

Plan to teach Arabic to non-Arabs

A CONTRACT for the development and implementation of a special programme for teaching Arabic to non-Arabs will be signed within the next few days with the Egyptian Radio and TV Union by the Organisation of Islamic Countries Broadcasting Stations.

The contract will be signed by the Undersecretary of Kuwait's Information Ministry and chairman of the Organisation of Islamic Countries Broadcasting Stations, Abdul Aziz Jaffar, and the chairman of the organisation's executive council, Dr Fuad Al Farsi, and by the chairman of the Egyptian Radio and TV Union, Hussein Inan.

The proposed programme will be prepared both in English and French and will be broadcast all over the world via satellites.

The secretary-general of the Organisation of Islamic Countries Broadcasting Station, Ahmad Faraj, said that the proposed project was considered the second great attempt at spreading the religion of Islam.

Faiaka marks health day

DR Walood Al Khatib, the head of Kuwait's Faiaka Health Centre, said health is a balance between mental and physical abilities.

At a festival organised for World Health Day and Health Week, Dr Al Khatib said Kuwait offers health services in a number of different fields relating to both mental and physical health.

The Assistant Undersecretary of the Health Ministry, Ibrahim Al Mudaf, speaking on the occasion, stressed the need for cooperation between the government and the people, saying citizens must respond to the advice given regarding the care of their health.

He added that vaccinations for children and preservation of our environment were essential if the country is to achieve health for all people by the end of this century. "Health for all and all for health" was selected by the World Health Organisation as this year's slogan for World Health Day.

through the teaching of the language of the Holy Quran among 800 million Muslims, who spoke no Arabic and yet constituted 80 per cent of the world population.

He said that the project, when completed, would enable millions of Muslims to familiarise themselves with Islamic sciences and the Prophet's (PBUH) sayings, and would also protect their doctrine and religious beliefs against anti-Islamic subversive propaganda and campaigns, such as those currently happening in poverty-stricken Muslim communities.

He said that programme would be developed by the Egyptian TV and Radio station in

about two years.

The programme will include a total of 153 lessons, each 25 minutes long, which would be distributed on video-tape to all Islamic countries that are members in the organisation and afterwards to Islamic universities and centres.

He added that the programme would be transmitted all over the world through the satellite network and each Muslim family would be able to receive and enjoy this programme, which was ultimately intended to deeply entrench Islamic values and teachings and safeguard the Islamic heritage against the effects of Western and anti-Islamic propaganda campaigns.

More societies, unions condemn hijacking

HH the Amir received several cables from citizens, non-profit societies, sports unions, university faculties, schools and Arab communities in Kuwait expressing their denunciation of the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner Al Jabriya and terrorising and killing of passengers.

The cables also conveyed condolences to the families of the martyrs and expressed support to the leadership of the Amir.

HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah also received a number of local cables condemning the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner.

The cables were sent by Sulayhiyah Sports Club, Um Al Kura Institution for Educational Services, Social Reform Society, Rahiyah Branch, Armenian and Egyptian communities in Kuwait, trade union of Education Ministry, fishermen diwaneyah, Rowdah and Hawally cooperative societies, Ehin Tamema intermediate school, exporters of fruits and vegetables union, Ediliya and Qurtoba cooperative societies, Medical Practitioners Union, Fahheel and Kuwaiti Sea Sport Clubs, Kuwaiti Theater, United Kuwaiti Poultry Company,

Kuwaiti Union of Fencing and Kuwaiti and Youth Sport Clubs, inhabitants of Egyptian Abu Sonbol village working in Kuwait and Kuwaiti society of specialised researches and studies, as well as the Society of Protecting Kuwaiti Environment.

Denunciations and condemnations of the hijacking operation are also coming from various Kuwaiti social, commercial and labour organisations.

Kuna received statements of strong support to the Kuwaiti stand of not yielding to the demands of the hijackers of the Boeing 747 jumbo airplane, who are holding for the twelfth day at least 30 passengers, most of them believed to be Kuwaitis.

The national association of Kuwaiti students — Alexandria, Egypt branch, representatives of Gulf Arab countries participating in an educational seminar here, Al Rowdah and Hawally Cooperative Society, Kuwait University's scientific societies, Kuwaiti Pilots and Aviation Engineers Association and many others sent their statements to Kuna and other government institutions.

The statements, generally speaking, expressed strong support to the firm stand of the Kuwaiti government and hoped that all the hijacked passengers return safely to their homelands.

They also pointed out that all of Kuwait and the rest of the Arab nation are following with interest the developments of the ordeal and wish a safe end to it.

Reiterated

Oman yesterday reiterated its condemnation of terrorism and expressed appreciation of the stand taken by Kuwait in dealing with the hijack.

Omani Deputy Premier for Legal Affairs Sayyid Fahd Bin Mahmoud Al Said expressed hope that all passengers and crew of the hijacked plane would be released.

His remarks came during a meeting with Gulf Cooperation Council Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs Sheikh Saif Bin Hashil Al Maskari in which the hijacking was discussed.

The Oman News Agency reported that they also reviewed coordination and cooperation among the GCC member states.

Symposium on educational problems

ABDUL Rahman Al Khudari, the Undersecretary of Kuwait's Education Ministry, said a symposium on the establishment of a unified approach to the diagnosis and treatment of major educational problems was being planned by the ministry.

Al Khudari said the two-day symposium, which will involve participants from the various ministry departments and educational areas, will be held at the Ministry's Training Centre in Jahriya.

Al Khudari opened the first education exhibition for the Farwaniya Educational Area at the Muthanna Primary School for Boys this week.

Exhibits of paintings and handicrafts made by the students were displayed and a sports event was held on the opening day.



A student explains one of the exhibits to Al Khudari.

Anti-Smoking Day passed unnoticed

SOME smokers in Kuwait never heard of the Anti-Smoking Day held on April 7, according to a survey made by a local newspaper.

One person, Falah Obaid, said he had not heard of Anti-Smoking Day before, but supported the idea of stopping smoking for one day. He said this would encourage smokers to give up smoking. Falah, 20, has been smoking for ten years. He said he tried to quit smoking many times but had not been able to. He admitted he had become an addict and it was now hard for him to stop.

Blamed

Nouri Al Thabari said he knew of the Anti-Smoking Day but did not know the exact date. He said he began smoking in college because all his friends were smokers. He tried to quit and stopped for 13 months, but then returned to the habit. He suggested that anti-smoking signs

should be placed at official establishments such as ministries.

Jassem Al Rashed said he had never heard of Anti-Smoking Day before, and blamed the media for this. He said that more youths were smoking than before because of lack of family guidance and checking. He said he considered a cigarette to be a girlfriend he could never do without. He added that the government should gradually reduce the import of cigarettes and ban them later.

Tourist office to move to Dubai

INDIA has decided to move its regional tourist office from Kuwait to Dubai.

Tourists from Kuwait increased by 41 per cent to 8,082 in 1987, while tourist from the UAE increased by 11 per cent to 31,180 in 1987.

ROYAL COURT

Amiri audiences

HH the Amir yesterday received HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah.

The Amir also received the Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed.

Amiri cable

HH the Amir yesterday sent a cable of congratulations to Queen Margrethe of Denmark on the occasion of her country's National Day.

Cable of condolences

HH the Amir yesterday sent a cable of condolences to the President of the Yemen Arab Republic, Ali Abdullah Saleh, on the death of the head of the Supreme Court of Appeal Mohammed Bin Yahya Al Eryani.

Crown Prince cable

HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah sent a cable of congratulations to the Prime Minister of Denmark Poul Schluter on the occasion of his country's National Day.

GULF PRESS

Soviet Union urged to prove its credibility

A United Arab Emirates newspaper yesterday urged the Soviet Union to prove its credibility towards the just Arab cause.

"Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze is not coming to the region to promote a new peace initiative that would counter the US plan," Al Wihdo said.

"On the contrary we expect him to play a role complementing that of the US in order to achieve more rapprochement with Washington."

Shevardnadze is expected to tour the Middle East soon, a few weeks after US Secretary of State George Shultz made his third trip to the area to promote an American peace scheme.

Al Wihdo said the new Soviet moves come after improvement in Soviet-American relations that started with the signing of the Afghan accord on Thursday.

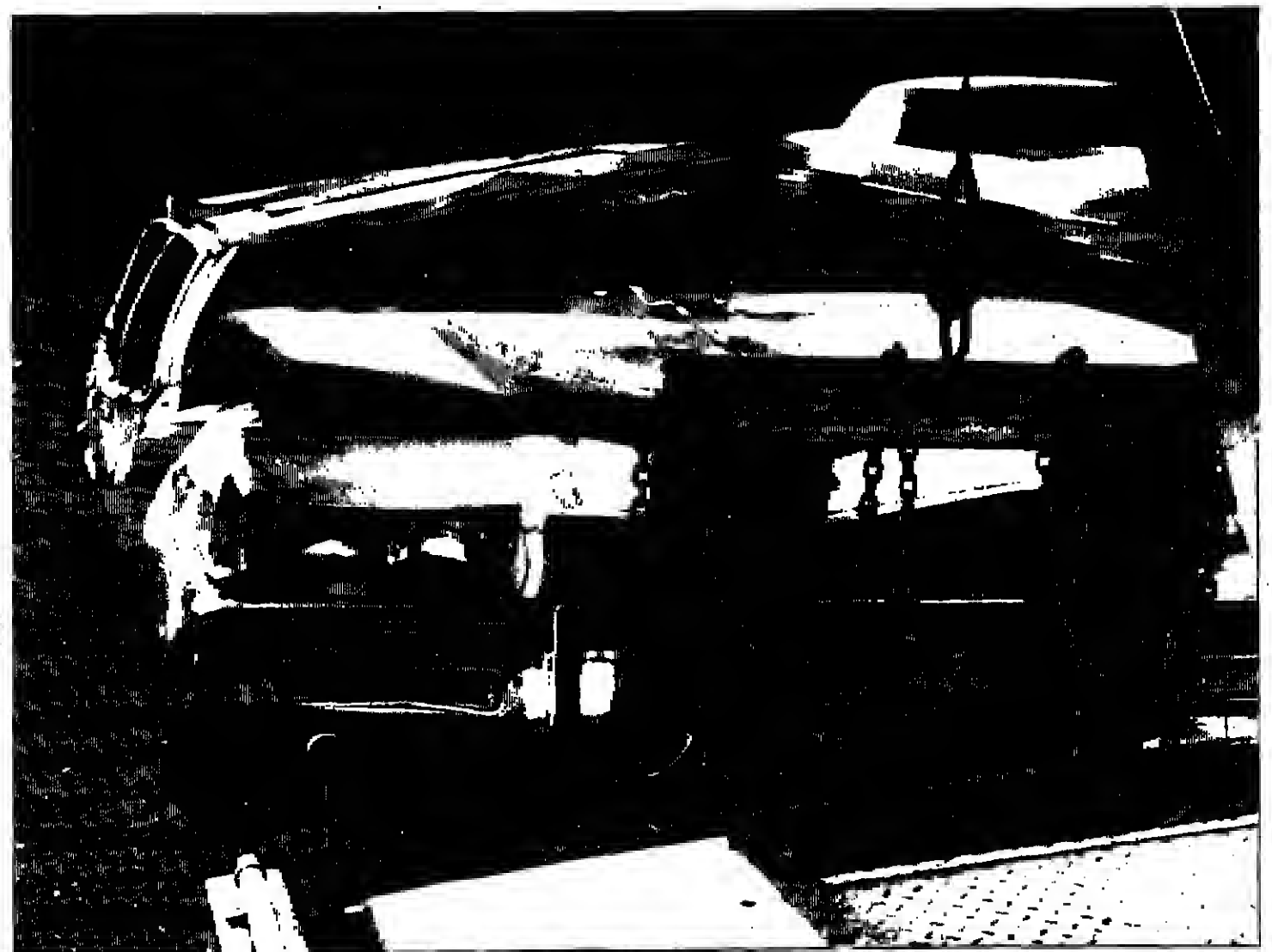
It asked whether the new Soviet-US detente would be "at the expense of the just Arab cause."

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It is currently holding an exhibition at the Kuwait Sheraton Hotel until April 22. This is the first time Zaveri has held an exhibition anywhere in the world.

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Threat to kill all hostages

(Continued from Page 1)

pilot to fly to Mashhad in northern Iran on April 5.

But Kuwait has refused to how to their demand to free the 17 jailed for bomb attacks on embassies and other targets in Kuwait in 1983.

Negotiations to end the crisis appeared to have come to a dead end today after three days of hectic shuttle talks produced only the release of a Kuwaiti man suffering from diabetes.

When the plane left Larnaca, where the hijackers swapped 12 hostages for fuel, Cypriot authorities said they allowed it to take off after assurances from Algeria that all remaining hostages would be released.

Demands

But the deal, if there was one, appears to have foundered because of the gunmen's unyielding demands and Kuwait's refusal to capitulate.

The Algerians, with a record as tough mediators in previous Middle East hijacks, sent officials to the plane six times yesterday for negotiating sessions ranging from two to 50 minutes.

They held just one session today, about two hours before the hijackers came on the plane's radio to say they wanted to hold the news conference.

Hijacking well-timed, says Sheikh Hamad

(Continued from Page 1)

global impact of the war at its inception contributed to its expansion and destruction. "It was believed to have been only a Gulf war ... that would last several days."

Hamad said that relations between Iraq and Bahrain are good and that the Iraqis warmly welcomed the Bahraini prime minister during his visit to Baghdad recently.

Although the Crown Prince expressed approval of the Gulf Cooperation Council's formula for operation, he acknowledged that it was capable of achieving more. "The formula upon which the GCC was founded is very good and obstacles should be expected, but the forum must be protected and preserved."

Regarding disputes that arise within the GCC, he said it is important that the disputes be solved within the group before they get out of control.

He added that the border dispute that erupted between Bahrain and Qatar could still be solved within the GCC framework. Although he said that this wasn't the time to go into detail about the dispute, he said again that everything can be solved within the formula of the GCC.

On being queried about a recent refinery accident in Bahrain, he said that security forces foiled the attempt. He

attributed the economic prosperity of Bahrain to its security and political stability although its resources are limited and it depends on the support of other countries.

This year's GCC summit will be held in Bahrain and with Bahrain having the lowest per capita income among the GCC states the question arose as to whether this would be presented at the summit.

The Crown Prince said: "Bahrain has the potential of having strategic industries which could meet the needs of the area market."

The Bahraini-Saudi Causeway, which links Bahrain with Saudi Arabia, has doubled the number of people who enter Bahrain. Sheikh Hamad said that they had feared that this increase in the number of cars entering the country would cause internal traffic congestion. He added that this had not become a problem and that many other positive factors had resulted.

"The causeway creates understanding among the merchants in the area which is in the interest of all."

He praised the role of Saudi Arabia in building the Bahraini Defence Force, saying: "The coordination with Saudi Arabia is good inside the framework of the GCC. We do not deny or ignore their role."



Shlites in Kuwait arriving at a memorial service for the two murdered hijack victims — Khaled Ayoub Bander and Abdullah Mohammad Al Khalidi. (Reuters wirephoto)

13 slain in bloodiest day of violence

(Continued from Page 1)

An Israeli military spokesman confirmed three Palestinians were killed in the Gaza Strip, where Al Wazir once lived, and said their families snatched the bodies from local hospitals. The Army was checking the reports of the other deaths, he said.

Hospital officials said more than 100 Palestinians were wounded by Army gunfire in the Gaza Strip alone, several of them in critical condition. Arah sources said most of the Gaza Strip was under curfew or declared a closed military area.

In the West Bank city of Nablus, some 15,000 Palestinians marched to mourn Al Wazir's death, but were dispersed with tear gas. The city was declared a closed military area, Arah sources said.

Memorial processions were also dispersed in Al Amari refugee camp near Ramallah and at the Gaza home of Al Wazir's cousin, Ahmed, Israeli and Arab sources said.

The Supreme Islamic Council, the ruling body of Muslims in the West Bank, demanded Al Wazir be buried in Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa mosque, Islam's third holiest site.

The mosque stands on the Biblical Temple Mount. Hundreds of black flags were raised in the West Bank and

Gaza Strip to mourn Al Wazir's death.

Protesters shouted slogans such as "We will take revenge" and "By our spirit and our blood we will sacrifice for you Abu Jihad."

Faiz Abu Rahme, head of the Gaza lawyers' association and a cousin of Abu Jihad, was arrested at about 1 a.m. this morning, just before Al Wazir was shot dead by his daughter said.

She said Abu Rahme was later released. Israel Radio quoted Abu Rahme as saying the killing was a tragedy for the Palestinian people.

Arafat stunned

MANAMA, Bahrain, April 16, (AP) PLO chairman Yasser Arafat was stunned by the assassination of his military commander, Khalil Al Wazir, today but kept scheduled meetings in Bahrain and Saudi Arabia, aides reported.

They said he was told at dawn of the assassination of Al Wazir, his "life-long friend and comrade-in-arms," several hours earlier.

Arafat met the Amir of Bahrain, Sheikh Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, then flew on to Riyadh for an audience with King Fahd.

PLO officials said that Arafat's meetings with the leaders of Bahrain and Saudi Arabia as previously scheduled underscored his determination not to allow the assassination to deter planned political action for the Palestinian cause.

"Arafat held talks with the leadership in Bahrain and headed for Riyadh in line with the arranged programme and this shows that the Palestinian revolution is continuing and aflame," said Wafa Nahhan, the PLO representative in Bahrain.

PLO military commander ...

(Continued from Page 1)

they mowed him down with literally hundreds of sub-machine gun bullets."

Al Wazir's wife, Intissar, his daughter Hanan, 14, and son Nidal, 2, the youngest of his five children, were in the house at the time but were unhurt.

Palestinian officials said Al Wazir's wife told Tunisian authorities that the attackers were masked, dressed in military fatigues and were armed with silenced weapons.

Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali denounced the killing and set up a special commission to investigate.

The area around Al Wazir's home was blocked off by Tunisian security forces and no one was allowed to approach. Authorities threw up roadblocks and were checking identities throughout the area. All routes out of the country were also being watched.

Police said the three rented vehicles found at the beach, two Volkswagen minibuses and a Peugeot 305, were being examined and dusted for fingerprints.

Al Wazir, who was killed only two months after three of his senior officers were assassinated in Limassol, Cyprus.

Al Wazir mourned

(Continued from Page 1)

continue their struggle unabated despite the "bestial crime."

Algerian President Chadli Benjedid said: "Al Wazir was an example of sacrifice giving the Zionist enemy a lesson in unforgettable heroism."

Jordan, which expelled Al Wazir after the breakdown of talks between the PLO and the kingdom in 1986, condemned "this criminal act."

Blamed
Arah League Secretary-General, Cheddi Kibbi, blamed Israel for the killing.

Tunisian President, Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, condemned the killing and called a crisis meeting of top aides and ordered an inquiry.

In Jordan, PLO executive committee member, Bishop Elias Khoury, said there could be more Palestinian "martyrs" until their goal was realised.

The Reagan administration condemned the assassination and called for an end to the violence in the Middle East through the adoption of the latest American peace plan outlined by Secretary of State George Shultz.

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Missile duel between Iraq and Iran flares

(Continued from Page 1)

mine there that holed the US frigate.

The mine was one of several spotted in the area and has rekindled fears that the Iranians were again mining shipping lanes in the strategic water after apparently laying off for several months following clashes with US forces.

An AP correspondent aboard the USS Wainwright in the Gulf, reported that Navy divers today detonated two mines in the central Gulf sector, near where the Roberts was hit, while mine sweepers and helicopters searched for others.

The Roberts was the first US Navy ship damaged in the Gulf since an Iraqi warplane attacked the frigate Stark with missiles on May 17, 1987, killing 37 crewmen.

Presence

The US Navy, supported by warships from several Western European countries, increased its presence in the Gulf last July to protect reflagged tankers from Iranian attack.

In Washington, President Reagan met with top advisers yesterday to discuss whether to retaliate against Iran for apparently sowing new mines in the Gulf, the Washington Post reported today.

Reagan decided to assess military options rather than act on any of them, the newspaper said.

Reagan weighed options ranging from a show of force by sending the battleship USS New Jersey to the region, to launching a retaliatory strike against a long list of possible targets, the Post said.

Iran today warned the US it would strike back if Washington took action against the Iranians for an underwater explosion which damaged the Roberts.

"If America embarks on a new aggression on Iran, the Islamic Republic of Iran will respond with utmost force," Tehran Radio quoted a spokesman for Iran's war information headquarters as saying.

The Iranian spokesman denied that Iran had mined the Gulf and said the presence of foreign warships in the waterway was the main cause of insecurity to shipping.

In New York, United Nations sources said yesterday that Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar has proposed a new Gulf peace plan, believing that the divergent positions of Iran and Iraq were "insufficient" for implementing the Security Council's July 20 ceasefire resolution.

Baghdad's government-run Al Joumhouria daily today criticised UN efforts, branding them "a dirty game which aims to throw a smokescreen over Iran's crimes against our people and country."



Wazir wanted to die a martyr: parents

DAMASCUS, April 16, (Reuters) The parents of Palestinian military commander Khalil Al Wazir, shot dead in Tunis today, said their son had told them he wanted to die a martyr.

"Khalil used to say to me: 'One day you will hear that I am killed. What will you do if I am martyred?' " his weeping 78-year-old mother said.

Fawziyah Al Wazir said her husband Ibrahim heard on the radio that their son had been killed by gunmen who invaded his Tunis home.

"I was in bed when he started saying 'Khalil is gone ... Khalil is gone ... They killed my son,' " she said.

"My God help us to bear this deep wound. The nation's hero is dead," he said with tears in his eyes. "Who killed my son? The

Israelis are those who killed my son. Only God knows our feeling."

"My son's life was a struggle, he lived a hard life and had to move from one place to another ... he was longing for the time when we all return to our home in Palestine."

Fawziyah said she had not seen Khalil for six years. "He moves from one place to another to carry out his duties and he has little time to see us," she said.

"We were living in Gaza but Khalil wanted us to come to live with him in Lebanon. After we came to Lebanon, the war started and he moved us to this flat."

Tape-recorded passages from the Quran were played as scores of Palestinians gathered at the Wazir's Damascus apartment to offer sympathy.

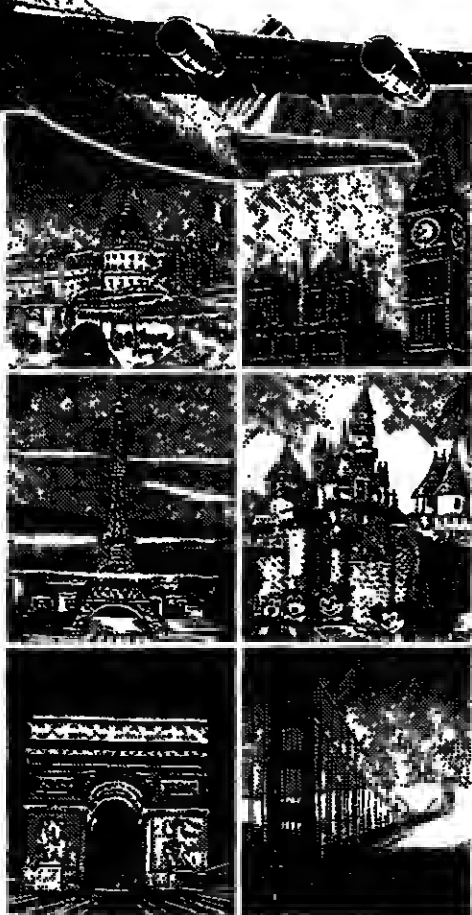
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Tenders No.	Material	Tender Fee	Closing Date
1/8033	Xerographic Plan Printer	KD.2/-	2.5.1988
1/8038	Lifter Supplies	KD.2/-	2.5.1988
1/8055	Tri Sodium Phosphate	KD.2/-	2.5.1988

Tender documents can be purchased from the Administration Services Dept. at KNPC head office from 20.4.1988.

ANNOUNCEMENT



Al Dobboba Restaurant, one of the best first class sea-food restaurants in Kuwait, was recently opened in Salmiya. The opening ceremony was attended by a large crowd. Free gifts were given away during the function.

EVENTS

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Bulgarian Art Show
An exhibition of contemporary applied arts in Bulgaria is being held at the Dahiyat Abdullah Al Salem Gallery, near Fatima Mosque. Open daily, except Friday, from 9 am to 12 noon and 4 to 7 pm, until April 21.

Ghadir Gallery
Sudanese artist Hasan Hakem is showing his drawings at the gallery in Salhiya Complex. It is open daily from 9 am to 12.30 pm and 4 to 8.30 pm, until April 21.

Sultan Gallery
"The Islamic Heritage of Spain" is open daily from 9 am to 1 pm and 5 to 8 pm at the Sultan Gallery, Thunayan Al Ghanim Bldg, Al Soor St.

THEATRE

Kuwait School of Contemporary Dance

The company will present two ballets "Carnival" and "The Never Ending Story" from April 25 to 29, 8.30 pm nightly, at the Mousetrap Theatre, NES, Jahriya. Tickets — KD4. The box office at Mousetrap is open daily from 4 to 7 pm. For telephone bookings ring 5610673, 8 am to 1 pm.

SOCIAL

Kuwait Natural History Group

A meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 19, 7.30 at the Gulf English School, Salwa. A talk on Colour Printing For Beginners will be given by T.K. Behram. For details call Eric Shaw 3718417.

Alumni get-together

The T.K.M. College of Engineering will hold a get-together on April 21 at the SAS Hotel. Those who have not registered please contact 2402945, 4336416 after 7 pm.

KLT

St. Georges Day Informal, on April 21 at 8 pm. For members and guests. Tel: 3985964 or 3982739.

SPORTS

K.O.S.A.

Kuwait Offshore Sailing Committee (K.O.S.A.) will hold an extraordinary general meeting on April 19, 10.00 hours, at Fabeel Sea Club. All members are invited to attend.

Goan Cup Tournament

The Young Goans Association, Kuwait, will hold a seven-a-side football tournament on the first day of Eid Al Fitr at Al Sour Grounds. The draw will be held on the same day at 7.30 am. Tournament commences at 7.45 am. The tournament is open to all communities, subject to approval by organisers. For details contact Tom — 2419409; Almeida 4813892 ext 232.

YMCA Holiday Special

The Young Men Cricket Association (YMCA) will hold the Holiday Special on May 17, Messilah Beach Hotel. Highlights are music by Top Ranks with special competitions such as Made for Each Other Contest, Funky King and Queen. For reservations contact Lancy — 4814914, 9 am to 4 pm, 3981790; 3929518, 5 to 8 pm.

● All entries for the What's On column can be sent by telex (22332) to Events Section or hand delivered daily, except Thursday, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Shuwalh. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phoned-in entries will not be accepted.

Going Places

Indians, Bangladeshis celebrate Baisakhi

Wham, bang — Punjabis dancing

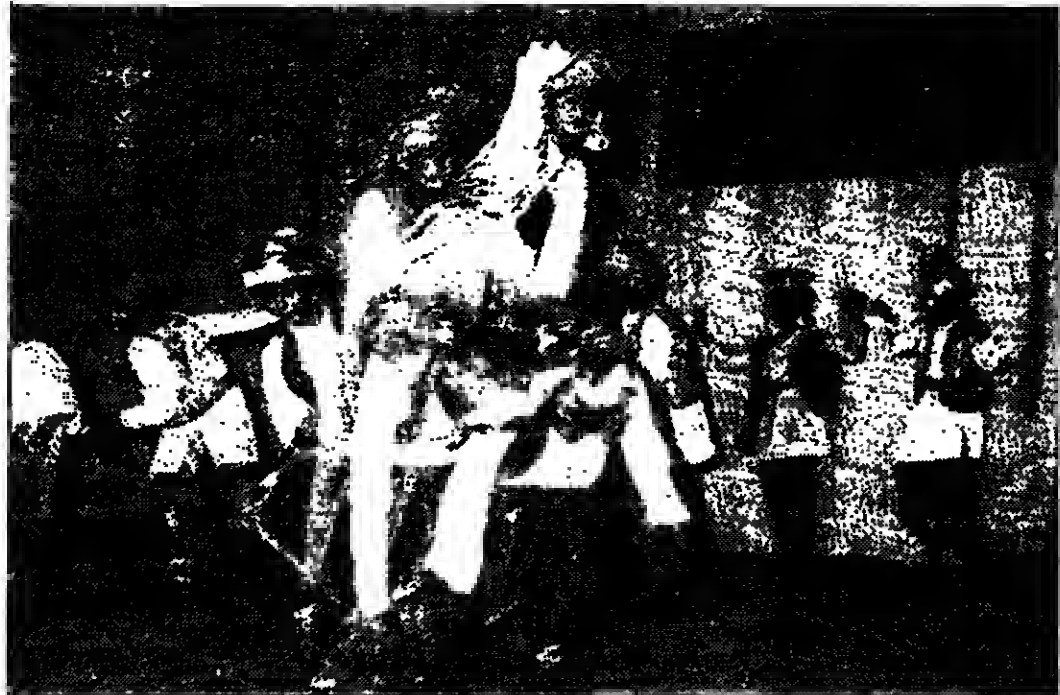
WHAM, bang and the Punjabis danced at the Baisakhi di Raat celebration held on Friday at the IAC auditorium in Funaitees. For the Punjabis, loud is cheerful. The higher the pitch the better. And the more the merrier. Over a thousand people attended Friday's Baisakhi di Raat, organised by the Punjabi Cultural Society to mark the 40th Independence Day celebrations. Baisakhi is also the Punjabi Harvest Festival.

Silence was taboo. Even when the president of the society N.S. Sethi recalled the success of last year's show, their first, and how it had encouraged them, his sonorous voice was drowned in the din of the chirpy audience. Sinha's significant reference to the Punjabi role in the independence, and the mass murders by the British during the Jallianwala Bagh tragedy, fell on deaf ears. Yet, surprisingly, the applause was spontaneous. Apparently, they were listening.

The brash openness of Punjabis is contagious. It seemed a sacrilege not to sing along, whistle or join in the bhanga and catcalls. If you didn't you were an outsider.

Their traditional role as fighters is part of Punjabi cultural heritage, as in the dance called "Boliyan" (performed by the Ugar Singh troupe), a must at the Baisakhi Mela, invariably ends with a playful clash between the dancers. The girls teasing each other on a warm summer day in "geddhe", another folk dance from Punjab, was the highlight of the show. The most popular dance was the bhanga, performed by Kuldeep Singh Bhamra and group.

No Indian cultural show has been so robust, cheerful or colourful as Baisakhi. Typical, pulsating music created an uproar. At one point, it seemed the roof would cave in. It didn't.



The climax of the mini-bhanga.

though the music was ear-splitting.

But the applause was deafening. Anwar Parvez, a local musician, sang and provided the background music for singers Malika Khanna, Alka Kumar, Sapna Dewar, Roma Haoda, Sukhwinder Singh, N.S. Sethi, Harbans Vadi, Satti Bedi, Kasturi Lal, Dolly Manan and Preeti Bajpai. Vocalist Shah Nawaz Karim of the Saaz aur Awaz group was the surprise guest at the show. Karim seems to have matured and polished his image as the Rafi of Kuwait.

Forty children danced the — boys and girls — bhanga and a mini-geddhe, choreographed by Mrs Amarjit Kaur Oberoi and Inpreet Singh Sethi.

The geddhe dancers who displayed carefree joie de vivre were Amarjit Kaur Oberoi, Manjit Kaur, Satwant Kaur, Indpreet Kaur, Inpreet Kaur Sethi, Saroj Sethi, Sushil Bhatia, Gurdeep Kaur and Madhu Malhotra, Rajni.

The orchestra comprised of Ambekar, Abdul Razak, Ranjit Singh Bhogal (tabla); Zafar Iqbal (dholak); Mubarak Ali, Anwar Hussain (harmonium).

The spacious IAC auditorium could not accommodate the crowd of Punjabis, who spilled out from doorways and stood outside the hall, peeping through windows to get a glimpse of the stage.

Next year, the Punjabis should arrange an open-air concert on a bigger scale. Others could join in — as there's never a dull moment with the Punjabis.

(Photos by Javed Basra)



A boisterous scene from the dance number, Boliyan.



Geddhe, a folk dance, performed by Punjabi girls.

Bengali New Year

A LESS boisterous but poetic evening was organised by the Nirjhar cultural group on Thursday to celebrate the Bengali New Year, which also coincides with the harvest festival of Bangladesh. Lyrical music, gentle dancing and flowers were presented to show a glimpse of Bangladesh culture.

The first of Baisakh is celebrated every year by the Bangladeshis to ring in the New Year. Thursday's show was attended by Bangladeshi Ambassador K.M. Shehazuddin and a large number of Bangladeshis.

Insak 3.47 am
Ifar 6.16 pm

PRAYERS

Fajr	3.56 am
Zuhr	11.47
Asr	3.22 pm
Maghreb	6.16
Isha	7.37



A folk dance number

Bank honours employees

THE Commercial Bank of Kuwait, (CBK) recently honoured 105 staff members for their long-service with the establishment. CBK chairman Hamad Ahmed Abdulatif Al Hamad, addressing the employees at a recent ceremony at the Regency Palace Hotel, called for further cooperation and said: "With cooperation, we can all face the future with confidence."

Mr Hamad Al Hamad also presented medals and service recognition certificates to all employees who have completed 10, 15 and 20 years of service with the bank. A plaque and certificate were awarded to employees who have served the bank for 25 years.

The ceremony was attended by CBK's Assistant General Manager, marketing, Dalal Al Ghanim.



Al Hamad calls for cooperation.



Chairman Al Hamad presents an award to an employee as Ms Al Ghanim looks on.



Some of the employees at the CBK reception.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

- 1.00 Holy Quran
- 1.10 Cartoons: Tan Tan
- 1.30 Magazine D'Actualite
- 2.00 On Ramadan: guests are Dr Abdullah Shihata, Dr Abdul Suhoor Shahin
- 2.30 Historical Serial
- 3.35 Dukkan Al Duniya: Arabic serial, featuring Muna Wasef, Mohammad Al Ibad, Jayana Eid.
- 4.45 Daily Arabic serial
- 5.30 Hadith Deeni: religious talk
- 6.30 Cartoons
- 6.45 After Ifar
- 7.00 Madinat Al Riyah: children's serial, starring Khalid Al Ohaid, Abdul Rahman Al Aqal, Jassim Nahhan, Mohammad Jaher, Huda Hussein
- 8.00 Nazrat Alal Alam: cultural film
- 8.15 Diwanayat Shuara Al Naht: poetry session
- 9.00 Dairat Al Khair: religious programme
- 9.30 Ramadan contest:

hosted by Huda Hussein

- 10.00 News
- 11.00 Iz'aj: local serial, featuring Ghanem Al Saleh, Maryam Al Ghabban, Dawood Hussein.
- 12.00 Late Night Arabic Serial
- 1.00 Arbat Fi Muhimmah Rasmiya: Arabic film, starring Ahmad Zaki, Noora, Najah Majji
- 2.20 News Summary/Insak/Holy Quran/Closedown

KTV 2

- 8.00 Holy Quran
- 8.10 The Care Bears: cartoons
- 8.30 Danger Bay: "A Man of Few Words." An Aquarium worker is promoted by Dr Roberts but the employee wants a better grade
- 9.00 News in English
- 9.40 Islamic Horizon: a religious talk on religion to mark the month of Ramadan
- 9.50 Islam and Muslims

Around the World: focus on the life of Muslims in Islamic countries

10.30 The Flying Doctors: a team of doctors and policemen set out in search of a missing family, lost in the desert.

11.30 Together We Stand: a comedy about a family who adopt a Chinese child. In tonight's episode, he is encouraged to participate in school activities.

12.00 Best-Seller: "Monte Carlo". Part One. Set during World War II Monte Carlo, it tells the story of a beautiful Russian spy and her amorous adventures with an American writer. Starring: Joan Collins.

1.30 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

RADIO PROGRAMMES

English

- Morning
- 0800 Opening
- 0802 Songs and Music
- 0830 News
- 0840 Songs and Music
- 0845 Daily Programme
- 0900 Bands With A Beat
- 0930 Songs and Music
- 1000 Our Press Today
- 1005 Songs and Music
- 1030 Pick of the Pop
- 1100 Closedown
- 1330 News on FM Service
- Evening
- 2100 Opening
- 2102 The Young Sound
- 2130 News
- 2145 Point of View
- 2155 Songs and Music
- 2200 The World of Sports
- 2215 In The French Mood
- 2245 Daily Programme
- 2300 Pop Session Special
- 2400 Closedown

Urdu

- 1900 Opening
- 1910 Baitareen Quail
- 1916 Programme Preview
- 1920 Songs
- 1935 Press Report
- 1940 Ek Khayal Ek Geet
- 2000 News
- 2020 Songs
- 2040 Geet-Kahani
- 2100 Closedown

BBC World Services

- 0600 World News
- 09 News about Britain
- 15 Radio Newswest
- 30 Musical Masters of the Baroque (ex 10th Play of the Week: Tartuffe)
- 0100 News Summary (ex 10th) followed by Play of the Week: 10th Tartuffe contd; 17th The Lion in Winter; 24th Sarco-phagus
- 0200 World News
- 09 The Sunday Papers
- 15 Cannery Row
- 30 Album Time
- 0300 World News
- 09 News about Britain
- 15 From Our Own Correspondent
- 30 Jazz Score
- 0400 Newsweek
- 30 The Seven Ages of Man
- 45 Reflections
- 50 Financial Review
- 0500 World News
- 09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
- 30 Big Bands — The Singers
- 45 Letter from America
- 0600 Newsweek
- 30 Jazz for the Asking
- 0700 World News
- 09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
- 30 From Our Own Correspondent
- 45 Book Choice
- 50 Waveguide

- 0800 World News
- 09 Reflections
- 15 The Pleasure of Yours
- 0900 World News
- 09 The Sunday Papers
- 15 Science in Action
- 45 Squaring the Triangle
- 1000 News Summary followed by Short Story
- 15 Classical Record Review
- 30 Religious Service
- 1100 World News
- 09 News about Britain
- 15 From Our Own Correspondent
- 30 Musical Masters of the Baroque (ex 10th Play of the Week: Tartuffe)
- 1200 News Summary (ex 10th) followed by Play of the Week: 10th Tartuffe contd; 17th The Lion in Winter; 24th Sarco-phagus
- 1300 World News
- 09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
- 30 Sports Roundup
- 45 The Tony Myatt Request Show including at 1400 News Summary
- 1430 Jazz Score
- 1500 Radio Newswest
- 15 Concert Hall
- 1600 World News
- 09 Commentary
- 15 Can Communism Cope?
- 45 Letter from America
- 1700 World News
- 09 Reflections
- 15 Jazz for the Asking
- 45 Sports Roundup
- 1800 Newsweek
- 30 My Word
- ALL TIMES GMT

NIGHT CHEMIST

- Kuwait
- Al Istiqal Pharmacy, Safat Square
- Al Kawther Pharmacy, Abdullah Al Mubarak St.
- Hawalli and Nagra
- Al Walid Pharmacy, Tunis St.
- Salhiya and Rumaithiya
- Al Samah Pharmacy, Salcm Al Mubarak St.
- Fahabel and Ahmadi
- Ahraj Pharmacy, Sanan St., F'heel
- Farwania
- Al Taawan Pharmacy, Jara Commercial Centre, Block 3, Main St.
- Jahra
- Al Khalid Pharmacy, Opp. Cooperative Society

CINEMA TODAY

- Al Andalus
- War Time
- Starring: David Blake, Dehra Keith
- Al Sahniya
- Wise Guys
- Starring: Danoy de Vito
- Al Hamra
- Al Marat Wal Kanoon (Arabic)
- Starring: Sherihan, Majeda Khateeb
- Drive-In
- Baab Nasar (Arabic)
- Starring: Basi, Najwa Fuad, Magdi Wahba
- Al Firdos
- Lofer (Hindi)
- Starring: Dharmendra, Mumtaz, Premnath
- Fahabel Open-Air
- Kahhi Kabhi (Hindi)
- Starring: Amitabh Bachchan, Raakhee
- Al Fahabel
- Kaiyethom (Malayalam)
- Doorathu
- Al Jahra
- Ek Duje Ke Liye (Hindi)
- Starring: Kamalhasan, Rati Agnihotri
- Granada
- Sangam (Hindi)
- Starring: Raj Kapoor, Vjyayantimala
- Salaikhat
- Kill Zone
- Al Jleeb
- Achuveeteote (Malayalam)
- Veodu
- Ahmedi Drive-In
- Hot Shots

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GULF GROUP

EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

NEVER tell your resolution beforehand — John Selden, English statesman (1584-1654).

OPINION

People of Kuwait are united

THE many statements made during the last few days by the Kuwaiti Shiites and the communiqué of the Shiite Hussainiyas (religious centres) are a clear indication of the unity of the people of Kuwait.

The hijackers of the Kuwaiti airplane were mistaken when they thought they could create a rift in Kuwaiti society by releasing a number of Shiite passengers.

In Kuwait the law does not differentiate between the Shiite or Sunni. Both are equal.

The released Kuwaiti passengers spoke frankly about the maltreatment of the passengers by the hijackers and said that the hijackers had questioned them about the sect to which they belonged.

Our citizens condemned such an attitude and the attempt at discriminating between Kuwaitis based on their sect.

The hijackers proved that their main goal was to try to exploit sectarian feelings for their own use.

The hijackers were wrong when they thought that the national unity of Kuwait could be affected by their preference in releasing the hostages based on sect. They forgot that all of them are Kuwaitis and receive the same respect as long as they are loyal to their country.

The notice published by the Hussainiyas on Saturday in all the local press is a blow to those who thought the Kuwaiti people would react differently.

All people in Kuwait condemn terrorism and the abuse of innocent people. Above all, people in Kuwait recognise that all Kuwaitis are equal.

All Kuwaitis realise that decayed brains fish in troubled waters during a crisis. But our Shiite brothers have already thwarted the hijackers' plans by issuing the communiqué and by their statements.

In Kuwait we are accustomed to solid national unity, not only during times of crisis, but on other occasions as well. We want national unity to prevail — we want it to continue as does the leader of this country.

Our leader hates to see a lack of unity in Kuwaiti society. He has declared this repeatedly in his speeches and addresses and whenever doubts are raised about the strength of the national unity.

Ahmed Al Jarallah

Al Wazir: an architect of Palestinian movement

NICOSIA, April 16, (Reuters): Khalil Al Wazir, a top Palestinian leader shot down in front of his family in Tunis yesterday, was a mainstay of the Palestinian nationalist movement.

His comrades pointed an accusing finger at the Israelis for the killing — for Al Wazir was Yasser Arafat's top coordinator of the four-month uprising in Israeli-occupied Gaza and the West Bank. Israel has declined comment on the murder.

Abdul Latif Abu Hilje, a senior PLO official in Tunis, said Al Wazir's role in the uprising must have been the main motive for the killing.

Al Wazir, a stocky, mild-mannered Palestinian from Ramleh near Tel Aviv, was in at the inception of the Palestinian struggle for a homeland and was one of its earliest architects.

Born on Oct 10, 1935, he started his guerrilla career as a teenage confidante of Arafat. His lifelong commitment to the cause was rooted in the slums of Gaza, where his family took shelter after being forcibly expelled from their home.

He later became a diplomatic trouble-shooter, arms buyer, military strategist and Arafat's right-hand lieutenant in charge of military operations.

Close

In Palestinian circles, Al Wazir was known as a moderate and the uprising, in which Palestinian youths confront Israeli troops with stones, was a campaign close to his heart.

The demonstrations have continued despite curfews, beatings, live fire from Israeli soldiers and a crackdown on the international media.

If the PLO was taken by surprise when the riots erupted last December, men like Al Wazir were quick to organise it into a semi-permanent challenge to Israeli occupation.

The young Al Wazir, helping his mother keep the family together by working as a pedlar in Gaza, was inspired by the rise of Egypt's nationalist leader Gamel Abdel Nasser and the Algerian revolution against French colonial rule.

He soon concluded that violent struggle was essential to fix a sense of national identity in the popular Palestinian mind

and force Israel into ever-increasing military reprisals.

Only that way, he believed, would Arab states be compelled to arm and confront Israel militarily over Palestine.

At 18, he set up clandestine cells which would become Arafat's mainstream Fatah Movement. Fatah means opening or conquest and has since become a pillar of the PLO as a whole.

Organiser

His first taste of prison came when Egyptian police arrested him for time-laying activities in Gaza. PLO legend has it that a camel tripped over one of his home-made mines and helped the authorities to track down the young guerrilla.

Al Wazir, who used the nom de guerre Abu Jihad, married his childhood sweetheart Intissar. As assistant, courier and as Fatah's acting military commander in his absence, her nom de guerre was Umm Jihad or "mother of struggle".

She was with him when he was shot yesterday.

During the 1956 Mideast war, he fled to Egypt where, as a student he met Arafat and Salah Khalaf. Together, they founded Fatah.

In 1963, Al Wazir established his military organisation, and on Jan. 1, 1965, launched the first raid across the Syrian border into Israel, claiming the attack for Fatah and creating "Revolution Day" for the Palestinian resistance.

Al Wazir became deputy commander of the PLO in 1973.

One Western diplomat said the ability of assassins armed with silenced pistols to kill Al Wazir in Tunis underlined "vulnerabilities" in PLO security.

"Wazir's death and the reaction will add credibility to the external PLO leadership's claim that it is largely responsible for what happens inside the territories," the diplomat said.

Al Wazir was PLO coordinator of the Palestinian uprising or intifada in Gaza and the West Bank, now in its fifth month.

One European specialist in regional affairs said he feared that Al Wazir's murder was a blow aimed at Palestinian moderates.

Residents living the most exciting days of their lives

Uprising transforms sleepy West Bank village

By Paul Taylor

EIN ARIK, West Bank, (Reuters): Residents of this lush farming village in the Israeli-occupied West Bank say they are living the most exciting days of their lives.

"Since the intifada (uprising) began, we are living the best moments of closeness and unity in the village," said Wadia, a spinster who farms olive and fruit groves above the valley where the sleepy village of 800 souls nestles, five km (three miles) west of Ramallah.

The Palestinian revolt that has swept the West Bank and Gaza Strip since last Dec 9 came late to Ein Arik, but it has galvanised life, forging new bonds between old and young, rich and poor, Christians and Muslims.

"Everybody is involved, everybody," Wadia said.

Ein Arik is not one of the militant hotbeds of the intifada. But it is typical of many previously docile villages, proud of its modest contribution to the

uprising.

"From the start, we obeyed every strike call. Some villagers who worked in Israeli quit their jobs," said Musa, a teacher. "Things really began in February, when Jewish settlers attacked the village."

He said six carloads of gun-toting Israeli militants from the nearby settlement of Dolev went on the rampage in the village at night, smashing house and car windows and shooting in the air.

Asked what sparked the raid, he acknowledged Arab youths had stoned cars with yellow Israeli licence plates in previous days.

"The shebab (youths) were waiting. When the settlers came, they rang the church bells and called people out from the mosque loudspeakers," recalled Shukri, a lawyer.

Hundreds of villagers came out and stoned the settlers, wrecking their cars and driving them out of the village.

"On the night we kicked out the settlers, we declared the

village a "liberated area." The whole village stayed all night in the street. Morale was so high that an 80-year-old woman sang and danced in the road," Shukri said.

Blocked

Villagers blocked roads with giant stone barricades, raised outlawed Palestinian flags over the mosque and the Greek orthodox and Catholic churches, and took turns to keep watch for the Army or settlers.

A popular committee of local nationalist activists, shrouded in secrecy to protect them from arrest, was formed to implement the directives of the clandestine unified national leadership of the uprising.

Elation was tinged with apprehension. Dozens of young people went into hiding in the hills around Ein Arik, where caves and rugged terrain offer good camouflage.

When a large Army force, some landed by helicopter, raided the village at dawn on March 2, they found only three

of a list of dozens of suspected rioters.

This time there was no violence. Shukri said: "The village knows its limits. We cannot overcome the Army like we overcame the settlers."

Young men sometimes sneak back home during the day but sleep out at night to avoid the midnight call of soldiers and agents of Israel's feared Shin Bet security service.

Summon

The youths can be summoned to the village by church bells. But when the Army tried that method to lure them back and arrest them on March 30, it did not work.

"It was the wrong peal of bells. The shebab recognized it was a trick. Nobody came," Chuckled Youssef, a farmer.

The clash with the settlers was only the start of the upheaval at Ein Arik.

In early March, three suspected collaborators, Palestinians accused of working as informers for the Shin Bet, turned over their Israeli-issued weapons and

"repented." Village elders returned the guns to military headquarters in Ramallah.

The lynching of a collaborator in the West Bank village of Khabatayeh on Feb 25 was a chilling warning to Arabs accused of working with the Israelis.

"One former collaborator even participated in the demonstration on Land Day (March 30)," Musa said.

Ein Arik's two mukhtars, Israeli-appointed village headmen, also resigned, handing their official seals back to the Israeli occupation authorities.

One mukhtar reportedly refused to escort a Shin Bet officer to arrest a suspected rioter.

According to village lore, he told the secret policeman: "I would rather be shot by the Army and have my people walk in my funeral than live like a king and die shunned by my own kin."

Villagers say the mukhtar's role was largely to assist the Israeli authorities with popula-

tion data, and information on unlicensed construction, property and people's whereabouts.

"Since 1967 (when Israel captured the West Bank from Jordan), mukhtars did not serve the village but served the occupation," Shukri said.

The shadowy popular committee has taken over leadership of the village, although villagers are extremely reticent about its composition and influence.

"In big cities, there are leaders who are known and who dare to speak, not in small villages," Youssef said.

Obey

"But when the popular committee grabs the microphone of the mosque or the church bells and tells people there's a general strike today, everyone knows to obey," he added.

No resident of Ein Arik has died during the uprising but one was shot and wounded this month in an event underlining the suspicion and hostility on both sides.



A perfectly choreographed goose step by members of the North Korean honour guard at the 442nd Military Armistice Commission (MAC) meeting at truce village of Panmunjom. (Reuters wirephoto)

North and South Korean truce talks keep going

By Michael Hughes

PANMUNJOM, Korea, (Reuters): After 442 performances and with no final curtain in sight, there is more than a touch of the theatrical at meetings of the Joint Korean Military Armistice Commission, the only place where North meets South.

These are the world's longest-running truce talks and the cast can be relied on for a polished performance.

There are the goose-stepping North Korean honour guards moving across stage at regular intervals, their boots thumping loudly with each cartilage-crunching stride.

Then there is the ritual of striving for eye contact domination across the line that divides the two Koreas.

The North Korean troops' hewn faces are tops for toughness, but the soldiers of the American-led United Nations Command usually have a height advantage in the eyechalling

game.

Connoisseurs of the 25-year-old talks say the reason both sides change guards so frequently is because of the strain of not blinking, not moving and looking tough, all at the same time.

Uniforms

And the uniforms... Swiss, Swedish, Czech, Polish, Australian, French, Gurkha, Thai and Philippine, as well as US and Korean.

By far the most dramatic is the red and white of the Thai paratrooper in the UN honour guard. It's way ahead of the shades of khaki, blue and grey the rest wear.

But these are just the supporting players. The protagonists, seated on each side of a table which is bisected by the border line, remain impassive even as they hurl verbal thunderbolts at one another.

"A war could break out at any time," says a North Korean major-general, conversationally. "If there is tension on the peninsula, it is caused by your side."

by your actions in sinking fishing boats and blowing up civilian airliners," replies an American rear-admiral, in a tone of mild rebuke.

Formalised and often predictable as the commission talks might be, their deadly serious function is to defuse tension between the world's sixth and seventh largest armies on a strategic peninsula where the interests of the United States, the Soviet Union, China and Japan meet.

Tension

The armies of North and South face one another on a front of only 150 miles (240 km) across a demilitarised zone (DMZ) of 2.5 miles (four km).

Given the unrelenting tension between the two Koreas since the end of the 1950-53 war, serious incidents have been relatively few — thanks largely, diplomats say, to the safety valve afforded by the commission.

North Korea has an estimated 800,000 troops on one side of the DMZ and South Korea 600,000, backed by 40,000 Americans, on the other.

Defence analysts say South Korea has overwhelming air superiority and that the United States has stockpiled tactical nuclear weapons in South Korea.

The Korean war ended with a truce but no peace treaty on July 27, 1953. Korea was then formally divided at the 38th parallel.

An elaborate system to monitor truce violations was set up with Czechoslovakia and Poland the supervising nations on the North and Switzerland and Sweden on the South.

Accredited

The other uniforms seen at the talks belong to nations who contributed to the United Nations force in the war. Of the original 16, eight remain accredited.

Among those no longer accredited are Ethiopia, South Africa and Colombia.

Since 1953 more than 50 American and 1,000 South Korean troops have died on the border. North Korean losses are not known.

Afghan settlement

An accord without peace

By Henry Gottlieb

WASHINGTON, (AP): The diplomats who signed the Afghan accords studiously avoided the word "peace" to prescribe what they had achieved, for despite the Soviets' agreement to withdraw 115,000 troops, there's no end in sight for the killing.

The Afghan government that the Soviets have backed for a decade will continue receiving arms from Moscow and the Afghan rebels supported by the United States will continue receiving weapons from a CIA pipeline.

The United States tried to get the Soviets to agree to a mutual cutoff of weaponry, but that effort failed so the Afghan rivals will continue receiving the means to kill each other's adherents.

US Secretary of State George Shultz acknowledged the agreement signed Thursday was "not perfect." But he and officials who travelled with him to Geneva were clearly satisfied with what had been accomplished.

The United States, it allies, the Islamic world and most of the rest of the world have been railing against the Soviets for more than eight years for sending troops to Afghanistan. To bring that withdrawal about, after the loss of an estimated million Afghan lives, was a major victory.

Shultz said, prompting him to proclaim, "history has been made today."

The agreement also will permit the United States to step back a bit from deep involvement in Afghanistan affairs, the officials said.

Before the Soviets turned Afghanistan into a superpower sore point, the United States had little interest in the incessant warfare within Afghan's tribal society.

The Soviet decision to withdraw could lead to the restoration of Afghanistan to the community of countries the United States need not worry about and the officials seemed pleased at that prospect.

Unpopular

There was a touch of irony to the signing ceremony in the United Nations Palace of Justice in that it took place in the same chamber where the superpowers blessed a 1955 Indochina accord that eventually failed.

The parallels between Afghanistan in the 1980s and Vietnam, particularly in the 1970s, are inescapable — a superpower bogged down in an unpopular war at home and abroad, realising its superior firepower cannot defeat a tenacious guerrilla force armed by another superpower, signs an agreement permitting disengagement "with honour."

In 1973, Secretary of State Henry Kissinger set the stage in

the Paris accords for US troop withdrawal, turning the struggle over to the well-stocked South Vietnamese. By April 1975, the North Vietnamese had won.

On Thursday, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze, who signed the troop withdrawal pledge, said supplies to the "legitimate" government of Afghan leader Najib would continue.

Shevardnadze, sounding vaguely like the American officials of the 1970s, tried to put the best face on what had happened.

When asked how Soviet generals would swallow their defeat, he replied "Soviet generals don't think they lost the war."

He claimed ignorance of a well-publicised Soviet academician's assertion that Moscow's initial decision in 1979 to send in the troops was a mistake.

The Soviet Union went into Afghanistan to help a besieged, legitimate government, he said.

Behind the gloss, US officials said, was a clear Soviet determination to end its involvement in a last-minute huddle over the continuation of superpower assistance.

Asked if Shevardnadze's condemnation of US assistance for the rebels could unravel the agreement, one official laughed and declared: "They aren't looking for a pretext to stay."

One year after Army revolt

Democracy delicate in Argentina

By Randall Hackley

BUENOS AIRES, (AP): During commercial breaks on Argentina television news shows these days, the government is trying to sell a concept: Democracy.

The word "democracy" appears in bold letters on a blue background. An unseen narrator says the people's will, not extremists, should decide the country's future.

It has been a year since troops at three Army camps revolted against the civilian government of President Raul Alfonsín, and three months since a string of similar uprisings at other garrisons.

The government put all of them down. But the TV commercials, keyed to the anniversary of the revolts last April, suggest that the idea of civilian rule in Argentina, restored in 1983, remains fragile.

This month, congress began to debate constitutional amendments that would strengthen civilian rule and reform the military, keeping the armed forces out of politics.

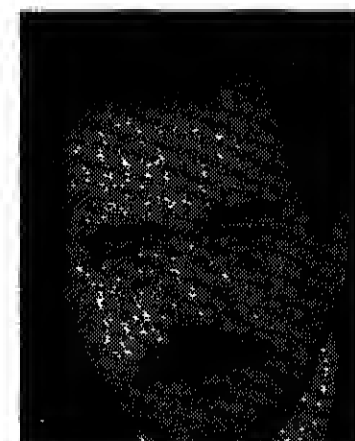
Limit

The proposed law would limit military activities to issues involving national defence. The objective is to shape a new role for the military within the democratic system for forces that, in the past, have assumed the right to interfere in politics.

"The armed forces are searching for a clear definition of their role" under democracy, said Sen. Antonio Berhongaray, president of the Senate Defence Panel.

Historians point out that in 60 years, no civilian president in Argentina has completed his term. The military has toppled government six times since 1930, most recently when Isabel Peron was ousted in a 1976 coup.

On April 15 last year, Aldo Rico, a previously fired lieutenant colonel, sparked an anti-government rebellion at Campo de Mayo in northern Buenos Aires. He attracted sympathisers among mid-ranking and non-commissioned officers in the cities of Tucuman and Cordoba, where Army camps also briefly



President Alfonsín

revolted.

In January, Rico headed another revolt, at Montes Caseros, 325 miles (525 km) north-east of Buenos Aires. Rico's sympathisers went into near-simultaneous revolt at five other camps, and briefly took over a Buenos Aires airport.

Alfonsín, of the Radical Civic Union Party, has 20 months left in his six-year term, and has vowed to hand over the presidential sash in December 1989 to a newly elected civilian president.

But some people remain on edge. In the Campo de Mayo rebellion, after Alfonsín won fire, he told a cheering crowd of 400,000 afterward: "The house is in order and no blood was shed."

When the January uprising ended after 96 hours with Rico's surrender and injuries to three soldiers by a mine blast, Alfonsín made the same claim: "We have again put our house in order."

Since then, pro-Rico graffiti has spread from shantytowns outside the capital to downtown, near the seat of government.

"Rico is a patriot," and "Rico is freedom," the slogans say.

In reality, those who made these attempts don't like democracy," said Adelina de Viola, a house of deputies representative from the centre-right UCD Party, the nation's No. 3 party.

Bombings two weeks ago in Buenos Aires and Cordoba, believed linked to a group that favours a return to military rule, injured four people. One suspect

was slain last week by police in connection with the bombings.

Rico now is being held, pending trial on rebellion charges, in the Magdalena military prison, 62 miles (100 km) south of Buenos Aires. Five former military leaders, including two ex-presidents, also are held there.

The former military leaders were convicted by the Alfonsín government for their roles in human rights abuses during the "dirty war," a campaign waged last decade by the military to wipe out leftist subversion.

A government panel said at least 9,000 civilians vanished without a trace under the military dictatorship. Human rights groups say the number of people who were abducted, tortured and ultimately "disappeared" is closer to 30,000.

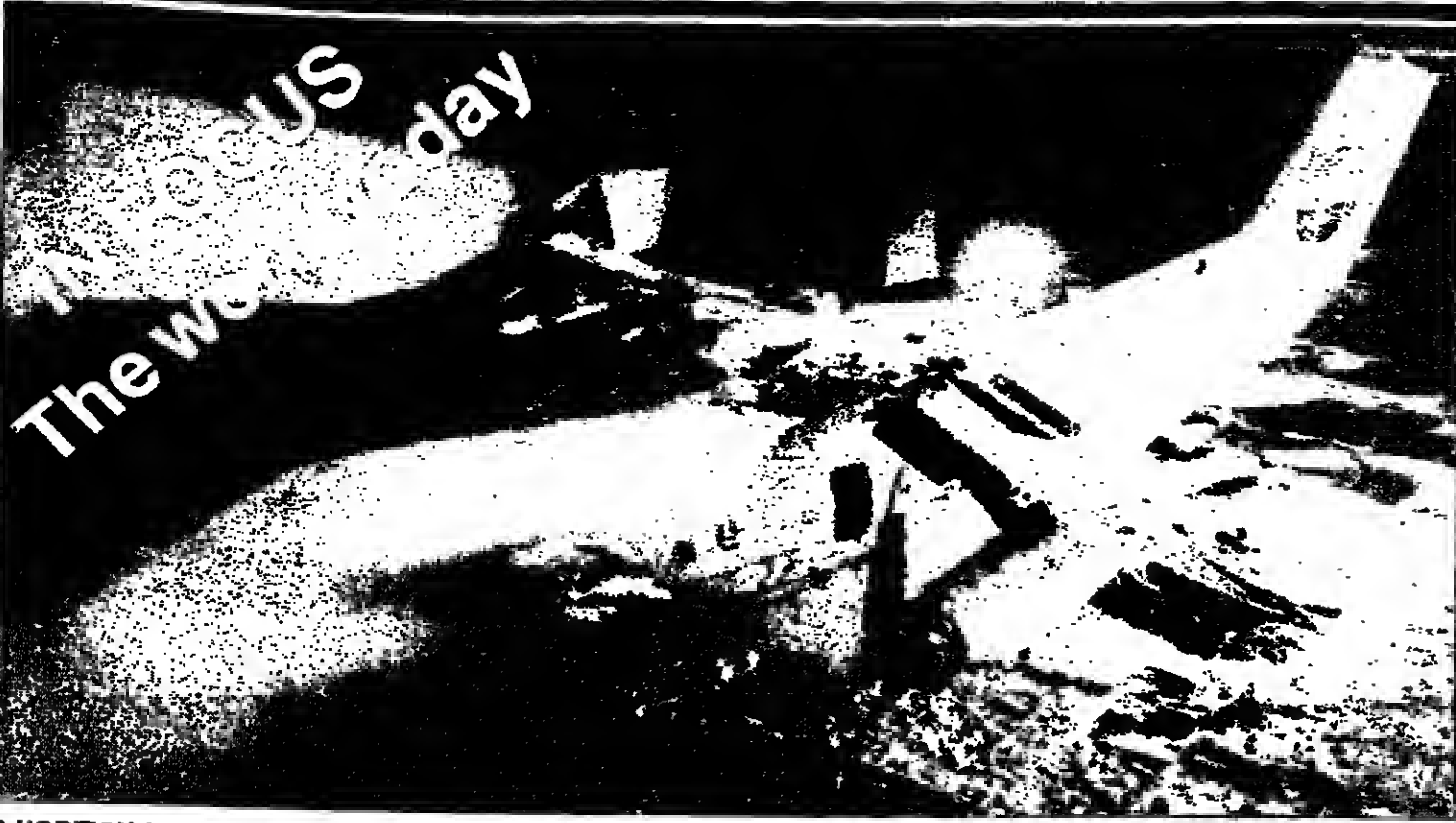
Rico says the military should not be penalised for tactics that he described as "necessary" in its war against subversion, nor be blamed for the embarrassing loss to Britain in the 1982 Falklands war.

In the past year, conditions have worsened on the economic and social front.

Argentina has had to renegotiate its \$54.3-billion foreign debt, the third-largest in Latin America, inflation was 206 per cent in the past 12 months, workers are restive over declining real wages and Alfonsín's party was routed in recent elections by the resurgent opposition Peronist Party.

Rico, meanwhile, has attracted support from rightist groups such as National Alert, a fascist organisation that favours a return to military rule. "This country is tired of the continuous agitations provoked by a small group that does not represent the general sentiment in the armed forces," said Buenos Aires provincial governor Antonio Cafiero, chairman of the Peronists and a leading presidential candidate.

Three Army officers have gone underground since February, announcing they sided with Rico and planned to fight the "Marxist enemy." "Marxists" forsake military members, include Alfonsín.



A HORIZON Air Daah-8 prop commuter plane sits wrecked next to a gate at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport in Washington on Friday after crash landing into the terminal injuring 21 of the 39 people aboard. The plane had just taken off when it developed trouble and crashed with an engine burning. (Reuter wirephoto)



RULING party M.P. Lee Young Il (left) protects himself with steel chairs from a hail of rocks thrown by opposition members during a campaign rally at the southwestern Korean city of Kwangju yesterday. Minor clashes between government and opposition forces have been reported in some areas during campaign rallies across South Korea for the April 26 parliamentary elections. (Reuter wirephoto)



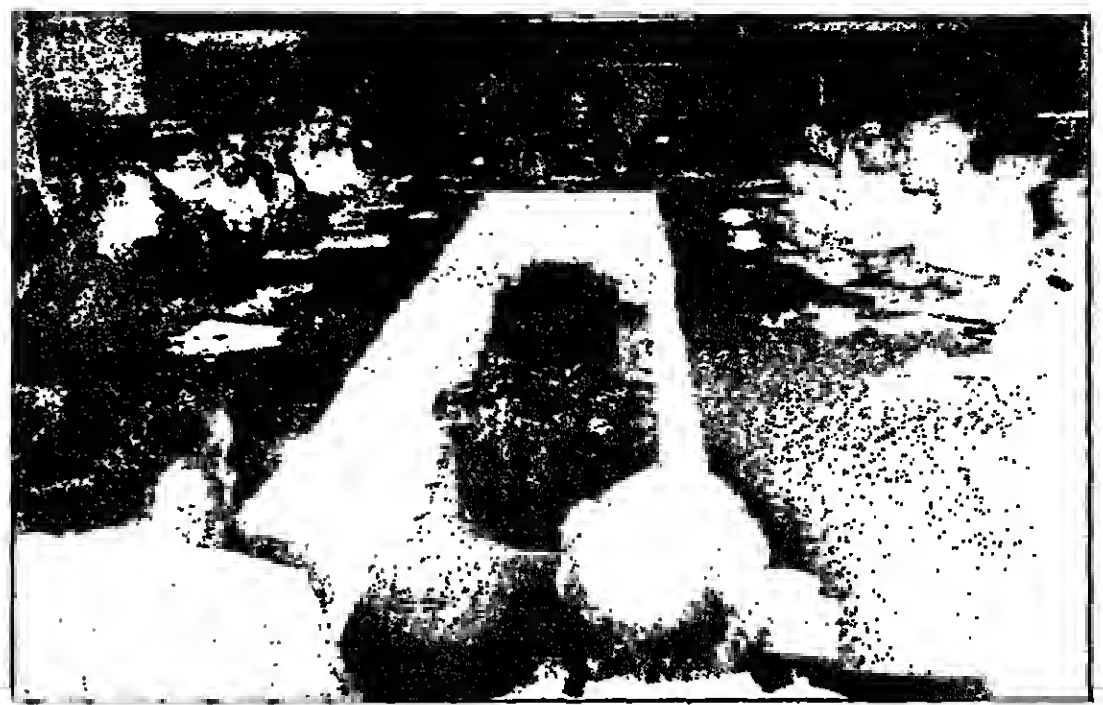
KING HUSSEIN of Jordan (left) and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt watch an air display during an armed forces show to celebrate the king's coronation. Mubarak left for Cairo on Friday after talks with King Hussein in Amman on a new US Middle East peace plan. (Reuter wirephoto)



THREE foreign photographers in an Army jeep are escorted by the Israeli Army in Nablus on Friday and driven to the military headquarters of the city. Seven foreign photographers, a foreign television crew, and one Israeli photographer were all detained for several hours by the Army as they attempted to cover a Palestinian demonstration. All were eventually released. (Reuter wirephoto)



VENEZUELAN President Dr. Jaime Lusinchi (right) is accompanied by Turkish Foreign Minister Vesut Yilmaz (left) early yesterday morning after his arrival in Istanbul for a private visit. (Reuter wirephoto)



CONTRA leader Adolfo Calero (right) talks with Sandinista Defence Minister Humberto Ortega (second left) on Friday before the start of peace talks in Managua. The two men head their respective delegation for four days of peace talks. (Reuter wirephoto)



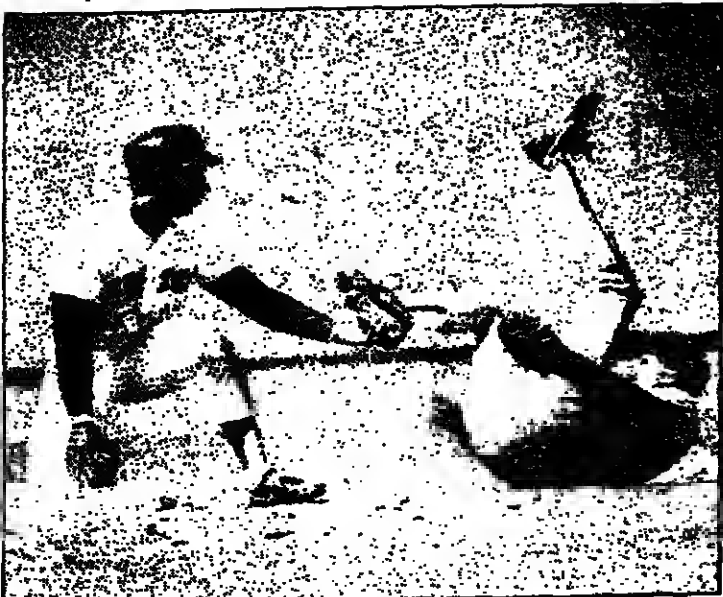
A UNIT of 755 US Marines from Pendleton, California, train in Fort Sherman, Panama, on Friday to practice jungle warfare techniques. (Reuter wirephoto)



AMIN ABDULLAH, one of 33 defendants facing trial on the assassination attempts of two former Egyptian interior ministers and a journalist, kisses his four-year-old daughter at the start of a court session in Cairo yesterday. Prosecution asked the death sentence for him and the other 14 members of a fundamentalist group called the 'Redeemed from Hell.' (Reuter wirephoto)



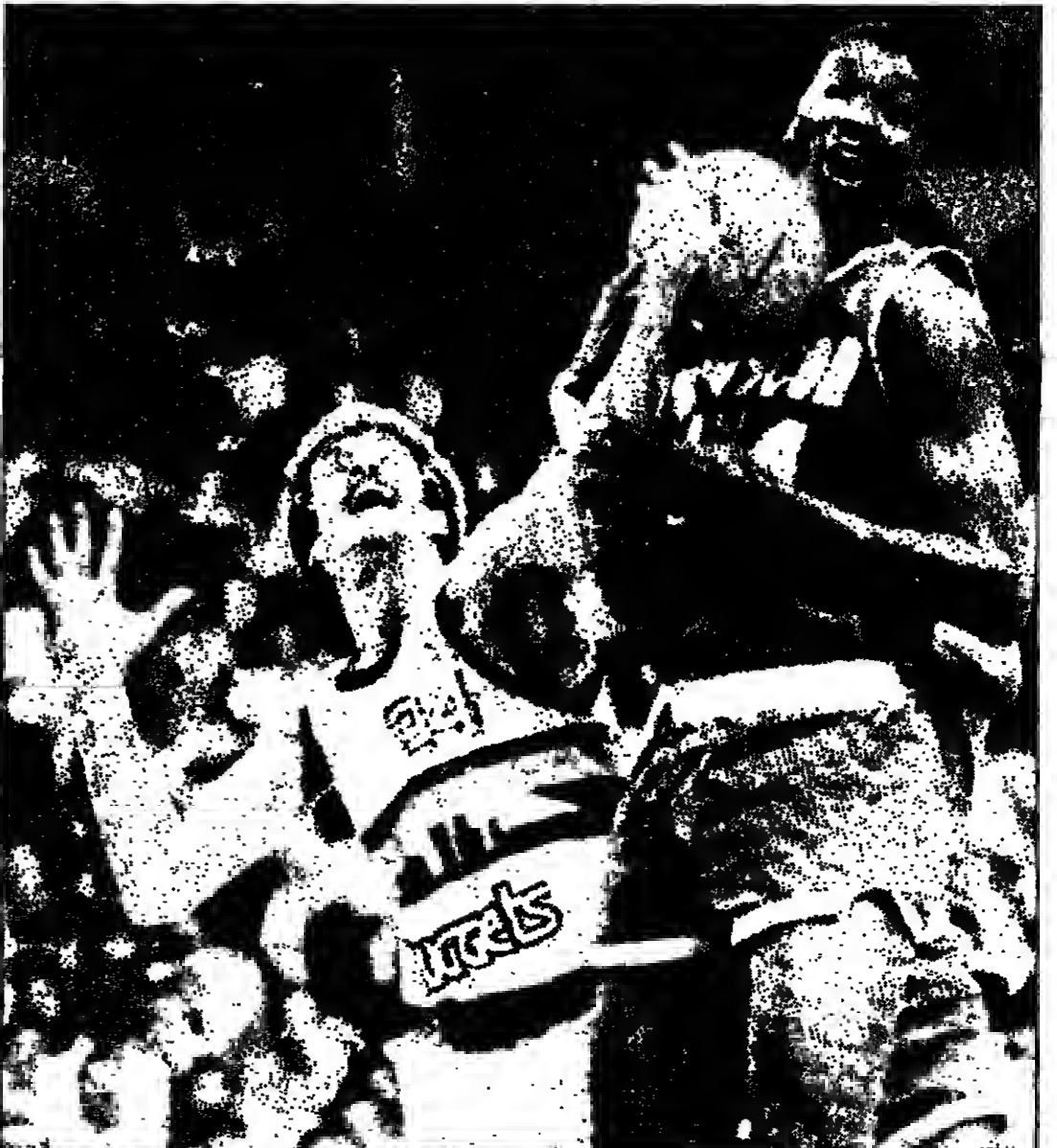
GOVERNOR Michael Dukakis (left) of Massachusetts gets a laugh out of New York Governor Mario Cuomo during a news conference on Friday in Albany, New York. Dukakis, a Democratic presidential contender, jokingly said that he would appoint Cuomo to the Supreme Court after the election. (Reuter wirephoto)



BOSTON'S Ellis Burke (left) grabs onto Milwaukee's Dale Sveum's shoe after tagging him out at second base during a game last week. Boston defeated Milwaukee 3-1. (Reuter wirephoto)



MARTINA NAVRATILOVA shows what a versatile athlete she is as she throws a perfect spiral to wide receiver Anthony Carter of the Minnesota Vikings on Friday. Carter was at the tournament at Amelia Island, Florida, doing promotional work for Nike when Martina threw him a pass. (Reuter wirephoto)



HOUSTON centre Akeem Olujuwon (right) grabs a rebound from Denver forward Bill Hanzlik (left) during first half action in Denver's McNichols Arena on Friday. (Reuter wirephoto)

FEATURES ON RAMADAN

Fourth pillar of Islam

Ramadan: the month of endurance

THE fasting of Ramadan is one of the five pillars of Islam. This is because Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said Islam is upheld by five pillars: first to bear witness that there is no God but Allah alone and that Muhammad is His Messenger. Second, to pray regularly. Third, to pay Zakat, i.e., divine tax for the poor. Fourth, to fast during the month of Ramadan. Fifth, to visit the House of God in Makkah once in a lifetime, for those who are able to do the journey.

Fasting for the month of Ramadan was prescribed during the second year of the Hijra. Fasting was an ancient form of worship prescribed by God from the beginning of time.

The aim of ordering people to fast is that they should learn how to be patient, to have good morals, to purify their hearts, noble their character and to practice the gentle way of dealing with people.

One should feel the sufferings of hunger and thirst in order to help those who are suffering from seeing them. One must always learn to feel the fear of God and His Mercy.

Fasting in Islam has been prescribed by the Holy Quran

between right and wrong. So every one of you who is present at his home during the month of Ramadan should spend it in fasting.

Besides this, there are many sayings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) which emphasise the time of fasting for the month of Ramadan.

We will take only one of the Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) sayings, because it will be enough for us that this saying has been related by Al-Bukhari, on the authority of Anas Ibn-Malik, one of the companions of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and his servant. He said "While we were sitting with Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) in the mosque, a man came along riding his camel. After he had ordered the camel to kneel and had tied it up outside the mosque, he asked "Which one of you is Muhammad?" "It is that fair man who is reclining there," someone answered. The man came up to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and said "Oh son of Abdul Muttalib." So Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said "I am ready to answer you," and the man replied: "I am going to ask you some harsh questions so please do not be offended regarding them."

Prophet Muhammad

month every year?" Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) answered: "Yes, by Allah." Again the man asked a question: "By the Name of Allah is it really God who orders you to take 'Zakat' divine tax from the rich people and distribute it among poor people?" Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) answered: "Yes, by Allah."

The honour of Ramadan

Then the man said "I believe in what you have brought us from God and I am the messenger of my people." He then mentioned the name of his tribe. From these teachings, and from the Holy Quran also, it is clear that the fast of Ramadan is a duty for male and female, once they have reached the age of responsibility and

have the ability to fast.

The month of Ramadan is an honourable month. It is the season of good, during which the Mercy of God is sent down to His servants, the gates of good action will be opened and the opportunity of forgiveness and of pleasing God the Almighty are available. Many of the sayings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) tell us about the honour of the month. Some of them are as follows:

Al-Nisai related that Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said "The month of Ramadan has come to you, it is a blessed month. God the Almighty makes the fasting obligatory upon you. The gates of heaven will be opened during it, the doors of hell will be closed, the chiefs of Satan will be chained. One of the nights of that month is better than a thousand months, it is the Night of Power

(Lailat Al-Qadr), Whosoever does not gain its honour will lose all kinds of good."

And Al-Bukhari related, on the authority of Abu Huraira, that Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said "When Ramadan comes, the gates of Paradise will be opened, the doors of fire will be closed and Satan will be chained."

Blessed

Those who fast during the month of Ramadan for the sake of God and hoping for His mercy, have been promised forgiveness by God, according to the saying of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH): "Whoever fasts in the month of Ramadan and prays during the night for his belief in God and for the sake of God, his previous sins will be forgiven; and whosoever spends the Night of Power (Lailat Al-Qadr) in worship for



Ramadan is the month in which the Holy Quran was sent to mankind.

Rich, oily food may cause complications

Avoid over-indulgence during Ramadan

By Fathima Ahmed

WITH the change in lifestyle during the Holy month of Ramadan, eating habits also change. Contrary to common belief, fasting does not make people thinner.

According to doctors in Kuwait most people gain weight during the month, despite going without food or water for as long as 15 to 17 hours a day.

One reason could be the rich, spicy and often greasy diet taken at the time of breaking the fast or during the pre-dawn meal. But the rich food may lead to complications, according to doctors.

In most Muslim homes a feast is prepared for Suhoor (pre-dawn). Although it is customary to break the fast with dates and a glass of juice, most families prepare an elaborate feast for Iftar.

Breakfast food in Kuwaiti homes is more elaborate and

greasy than in normal months. One Kuwaiti said: "Our food during Ramadan is richer, very heavy and oily."

Asian families also apply their culinary knowledge to the fullest in Ramadan. Deep-fried foods are in abundance for Iftar.

During all the preparations for Ramadan, most people forget the real significance of the month.

Fasting during the month of Ramadan provides people with will-power and the guidance to obey Allah by discarding the desires of the body. According to Hadith, the eating of suhoor is obligatory for all Muslims, as is the consumption of Iftar at dusk. However, this does not mean any way mean that people should stuff themselves.

Quoting a Hadith of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), Jawad Emad, a Kuwaiti doctor, said: "Our Prophet said that 'You shall fill 1/3 of your stomach with food, 1/3 with water; and

leave the remainder empty for rest."

"Instead of following the advice, we stuff ourselves, overeating and indulging in fatty foods."

Dr Jawad, who is a surgeon at a Kuwait hospital, believes that during the 15 to 17 hours that Muslims go without food, the digestive system relaxes as it is not forced to work.

After Iftar food should be consumed gradually. First, dates should be eaten to break the fast, followed by a glass of fruit juice. After an hour, fruit or a light snack should be taken. Then, a few hours later, a normal meal which is nutritionally balanced, should be consumed. This enables the digestive system to cope with the load, after resting for a long period.

Jawad warns: "Consumption of large amounts of food soon after breaking the fast could be hazardous to health." Gastritis is a common ailment

that occurs due to overeating during Ramadan, says Dr Jawad. He advises a reduction in the amount of coffee and tea consumed before or after the fast.

Recently, doctors at Kuwait's Amiri Hospital urged Muslims who fast to drink over three litres of fluid overnight to avoid kidney problems. Jawad agrees and adds: "Those with a kidney problem should not fast. Fluid consumption is also necessary for patients with asthma, and diabetes."

Eating high-cholesterol foods could threaten people with cardiac diseases says Jawad, who believes that sudden consumption of large amounts of food sparks off a reaction.

He explains: "The digestive system works overtime to cope with the heavy food load. If it is unable to function normally, there is a chance of artery blockage due to greasy foods. This could eventually lead to heart attacks."

the sake of God, his previous sins will be forgiven.

The most comprehensive tradition of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) regarding the honour of Ramadan is the one related by the authority of Salman Al-Farisi. He told how God's messenger said, in a sermon which he delivered on the last of Sha'ban, "A great month, a blessed month, a month containing a night

increased. If someone gives one who has been fasting something with which to break his fast it will provide forgiveness of his sins and save him from hell, and he will have a reward equal to his without the reward being diminished in any respect."

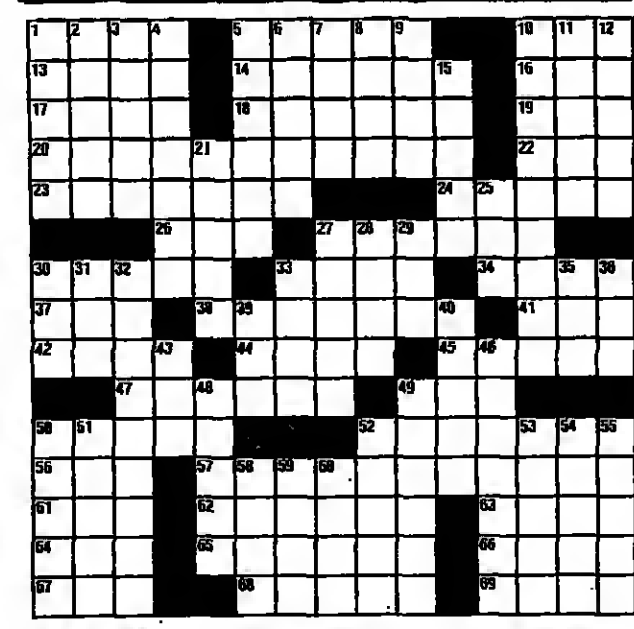
Some people remarked to God's messenger that they did not all have the means to give one who had been fasting some-

The aim of ordering people to fast is to teach them patience, have good morals and purify their hearts

which is better than a thousand months has approached you people. God has appointed the observance of fasting during it as an obligatory duty, and the passing of its night in prayer as a voluntary practice. If someone draws nearer to God during it with some good act, he will be like one who fulfils an obligatory duty in another month. It is the month of endurance, and the reward of endurance is paradise. It is the month of sharing with others, and a month in which the believer's provision is

thing with which to break his fast. And he replied: "God gives this reward to him who gives one who has been fasting some milk mixed with water, or a date, or a drink of water with which to break his fast; and anyone who gives a full meal to one who has been fasting will be given a drink from my supply of water by God and will not thirst till he enters paradise. It is a month whose end is freedom from hell. If anyone makes things easy for his slave during it, God will forgive him and free him from hell."

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS
- 1 Reckless
 - 5 Beat it!
 - 10 Small boy
 - 13 Fashion magazine
 - 14 On cloud nine
 - 16 Corridor cheer
 - 17 Black, in Bordeaux
 - 18 Do a cobbler's job
 - 19 Soda
 - 20 New York, to some
 - 22 Frightening word
 - 23 Crusader's foe
 - 24 — beer
 - 26 US soldiers
 - 27 Kit, the frontiersman
 - 30 Host
 - 33 — avia
 - 34 Two-masted sailboat
 - 37 Memorable baseball player Gehrig
 - 38 What some grapes become
 - 41 Highlander's denial
 - 42 Nocturnal insect
 - 44 Brainstorm
 - 45 Despoils
 - 47 Theater areas
 - 49 Sandra of Hollywood
 - 50 Celestial body
 - 52 Duke's wife
 - 56 Simian
 - 57 Peace offer
 - 61 Singer Torme
 - 62 Soprano Scotti
 - 63 Unpolluted
 - 64 Expert, for short
 - 65 "Sitas —"
 - 66 Toledo's lake
 - 67 — Fernando Valley
- DOWN
- 1 Leases
 - 2 Hilo greeting
 - 3 More crafty
 - 4 Pasture grasses
 - 5 Suit fabrics
 - 6 Spick-and-span
 - 7 Carpentry file
 - 8 On
 - 9 Fall — (in a jumble)
 - 10 Leading comic in vaudeville
 - 11 Standoffish
 - 12 Station
 - 15 Legal documents
 - 21 Cooler
 - 25 Painter
 - 26 Lichtenstein
 - 27 Boxes
 - 28 Operatic highlight
 - 29 Stood for office
 - 30 Endangered tree
 - 31 Sound from the pasture
 - 32 Divide the profits
 - 33 Take the trolley
 - 35 Event of 1612
 - 36 Band leader
 - 38 Brown
 - 39 Botter
 - 40 Guide
 - 43 Hasten
 - 46 Mexican wraps
 - 48 Flage
 - 49 Shuts out
 - 50 Bivouacs
 - 51 "Parsifal," for one
 - 52 Falk, Finch or Fonda
 - 53 Accustom
 - 54 IOU of a sort
 - 55 "White as a —"
 - 58 Meadows
 - 59 Concerning
 - 60 Weathercock

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

BEACH STEM AWLS
ALLIE JAGO SHOE
REDD SALMON PINT
ICE SITE SMITES
TRAIL SATIRE
RASP SELECTS
ROMAN RETRO ARA
EBAN SINES SPUN
EON STEER CAPEK
FENDERS SAHL
PIRATE SEALS
CLOVEN VASE HUE
LOWE GUEST STARR
IDES ESNE EASES
PIERT RAITA SPARE

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
WE DO THE IMPOSSIBLE; MIRACLES ...

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♠ J 10 8 3
♥ 7 2
♦ A J 8
♣ 9 5 4 3

WEST

♠ 9 7 2
♥ A 9 6
♦ K 7 3
♣ Q 10 6 2

EAST

♠ 6 5 4
♥ J 8 4 3
♦ 4 2
♣ A K 8 7

SOUTH

♠ A K Q
♥ K Q 10 5
♦ Q 10 9 6 5
♣ J

The bidding:

South West North East

1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass

3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass

5 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Two of ♣

There is nothing unusual about landing in a seemingly hopeless contract. As long as there is a chance, play as if the cards lie favorably.

Five diamonds could not be described as a dignified venture—it had about a 5 percent chance of success. There was a partnership misunderstanding. South thought that North's three diamond preference after his reverse was game-

forcing, as is the modern style; North intended it as a signoff.

West led his fourth-best club, East won the king and continued with the ace. With a sure loser in the ace of hearts, declarer had to worry about the trump finesse and second heart loser. Since 20-to-1 against was better than no chance at all, declarer decided to play the hand in a wide-open fashion.

He ruffed the second club and led a low diamond to the eight. When that held, his chances improved considerably. The entry to dummy was used for a heart lead to the king; West ducked smoothly. After a second trump finesse succeeded and both defenders followed, prospects were looking up.

Now declarer needed either a 3-3 spade break or else to find the long spades in the same hand as the long trump. When three rounds of that suit lived, his chances had reached a point where he needed only a winning guess in hearts. A trump to the ace picked up the king and, after discarding a heart on the jack of spades, declarer led a heart from dummy. When East didn't seem to be in any trouble, declarer finessed the ten and the impossible had been accomplished.

THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS

Aries (March 20 - April 18)

You will be tempted to go on a journey you know well you cannot afford. Others will be more inclined to believe what you have to say. You should keep your wits very much about you. Be resilient.

Cancer (June 21 - July 21)

The combined influence of the moon and Jupiter will help you to draw the right conclusion. You should not believe all you hear about others around you.

Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)

The more favourable influence of Mars and Venus will help you to get on well with those around you. You should do all you can to avoid complications. Do not waste time on secondary matters. Be sensible.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)

You will feel rather more cheerful. However there is still no room for complacency. Leave yourself with a little more time for your personal affairs. Make sure that a "hargain" really is. Be more tolerant.

Taurus (April 19 - May 19)

The moon's less favourable influence will tend to make you rather more nervous. You should avoid being impulsive. If you keep calm all will be well today. Be flexible.

Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)

You should avoid doing anything rash or on impulse. Do all you can to reduce tension and to prevent conflict. You would do well to be a little more patient. Be resolute.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)

Make sure you do not spend more than you know you can afford. If you feel tired make sure you go to bed earlier than you are wont to. You should not believe further than force right now. Make sure you put your health first.

Gemini (May 20 - June 20)

You should make sure you do not act in the hope that all will be well without really thinking. Think hard and long before choosing.

Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)

You will be in a more contented frame of mind. Make sure you get all the rest as well as the exercise you know you need. Try to have a good laugh at yourself. Be amenable.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)

You have the wind in your sails but remember there are only a certain number of things you can do at one time. Persuasion will get you further than force right now. Make sure you put your health first.

Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)

You will be able to do something that you enjoy doing. You should leave yourself with enough time to attend to a personal matter. Do your utmost to avoid getting into an argument. Be thankful.



"No offense, my dear, but I installed a little electronic homing device on the old suitcase."

SNIPPETS

Retirement programme to tap Filipino, foreign funds

MILLIONS of pesos worth of capital may be tapped by local businessmen in tie-up arrangements with overseas Filipino and foreign retirees who are investing in the country through an investment programme initiated by the Philippine Retirement Authority (PRA).

The new and potentially large investment capital is made available through the PRA programme that facilitates the resettlement of overseas Filipinos and foreigners who wish to retire in the Philippines.

Likewise, the local business economy is also expected to flourish with the influx of the retirees who may spend at least \$500 a month per retiree in purchasing local goods and services.

This new market of a high-affluent class of foreign retirees had expressed their interest in making the country their retirement homes because of the generally mild and pleasant climate, the low prices of goods and services, and the warm and friendly traits of the Filipinos.

Police raids cost fun establishments dearly

ERMITA will die in a week if police raids on fun establishments continue.

Gilbert Compuesto, spokesman of the Ermita working force group, claimed in a public hearing at City Hall that since the raids started late last month, the establishments have been losing from P20,000 to P25,000 daily.

There has been a 99 per cent drop in customers and foreign owners and investors are poised to either close shop or pull out their investments from their partners, Compuesto said.

Compuesto said their group is willing to cooperate with the authorities but guidelines on what is bold or not are yet to be drawn up by the city council.

Councilors lambasted the police for allegedly not allowing arrested dancers to dress up and for apprehending those who have permits and licenses.

Col Edgar Dula Torres, Manila police deputy superintendent, replied: "We are only doing our duty."

The group of establishment owners disagreed over a plan to transfer them to bazaars and flea markets which will be put up in Ermita should they lose their jobs.

US bank sued over credit card hassle in Manila

BOSTON, Massachusetts: A Philippines-born woman is suing a Boston bank for anguish caused when, she alleges, a Manila hotel held her sick infant and six-year-old daughter as collateral until she paid her bill.

Maria Luz Deulius, 38, filed a \$2-million lawsuit against the Bank of Boston because she said someone there made a mistake on her credit card account while she was visiting the Philippines.

She said the ordeal began when she and her two children checked into the Royal Palm Hotel in Manila for a week in November 1986 and she presented her Bank of Boston credit card.

"They called my room at 11 o'clock at night and said the bank had voided my credit card," Miss Deulius said.

When she asked the hotel to check again, they responded by taking her credit card and calling the police, who seized the family's passports and ordered a security guard to watch them during a three-day bank holiday, she said.

After the weekend, police escorted Miss Deulius to a bank and held the two children as collateral until she could arrange to get the money, which took most of the day, she said.

"My baby son was sick, he had a fever and diarrhea," Miss Deulius said. "I was nervous all the time. I was horrified. I thought they might take the kids away from me forever."

She added that the hotel released the children after she paid the bill and complained to the US embassy.

The Bank of Boston tried unsuccessfully to get the suit thrown out last year, saying Miss Deulius brought the problem on herself by restricting her credit card so her boyfriend could not use it.

"This is the craziest story," said Bank of Boston spokesman Wayne Taylor. "It's the most groundless, frivolous suit."

Do not overstep line of public safety, warns Aquino

Media gag on Gringo removed

By J. Esplanada

PRESIDENT Aquino this week gave media the go-signal to air or publish views of fugitive coup leader Gregorio Honasan and other enemies of the state.

The President, however, warned that media groups must be ready to face the consequences if they have overstepped the line of public safety.

Addressing graduates of the Ateneo de Manila law school, Aquino justified the government's curtailment of the freedom of speech shortly after Honasan's escape.

"The government had decided to take full and complete control of the situation," she said.

She explained that "we have resolved to isolate the rebels' escapee so they could not repeat the damage they had done and the murder they had wrought on Aug 28 last year."

"That is why we had to take emergency measures to achieve these controls," she said, adding, "we had to isolate the incident, clearly identify the perpetrators

and get a true estimate of the extent of the danger they posed to the public."

The President cited the need to warn the public about the consequences of aiding the Honasan interview. "Coup by mouth and instability by public alarm had become this man's chief stock-in-trade."

Earlier in an "ambush" interview at the palace, Aquino categorically stated that "we have changed our position" on the government's media policy on the Honasan affair.

She said it is no longer unlawful for media organizations to broadcast in print interviews with Honasan.

She said she has instructed Justice Secretary Sedfrey Ordonez and National Telecommunications Commission Jose Luis Alcazar "to make the necessary guidelines."

Last week, Ordonez said that media outfits risk closure or cancellation of franchise by airing or publishing views of Honasan.

Ordonez later clarified that what he stated was merely a



Gregorio Honasan

"legal opinion" and that the Department of Justice cannot impose such restrictions on media.

He told Malacanang reporters that his opinion on the case was not meant to be a ban on media coverage of other "enemies of the state" such as communist and Muslim separatist rebels.

Ordonez, however, said that although the rights to information and freedom of the press are part of the democratic process, "the government cannot allow these rights to destroy the very institution that protects them."

He also assured the media that the government will not arbitrarily close down printing organizations and that hearings will be conducted first to comply with due process of law.

The President shrugged off accusations by some sectors, including opposition members of Congress, that her administration failed miserably in coping with a simple situation such as Honasan's escape.

Aquino also brushed aside reports of an impending coup attempt by AFP officers and enlisted men sympathising with Honasan.

Meanwhile, Malacanang has directed the Department of Local Government to reactivate local peace and order councils.

DLG Secretary Luis Santos said the move would help convince the citizenry to participate in the nationwide manhunt for Honasan and his men.

Santos earlier warned local officials not to give any form of assistance to Honasan since "giving aid to an enemy of the state is treason."

Good news on jobs

THE government is beginning to succeed in easing the country's chronic unemployment problem.

A total of 20.8 million citizens were gainfully employed when last counted as compared with 19.1 million a year ago.

Consequently, the count of jobless Filipinos went down to 2.1 million as against the 2.3 million in the comparable period.

Source of the good news is the National Statistics Office, which cites the first and last quarters of 1987 as its sources of reference in presenting the update on the nation's employment picture.

How such a picture looks in the first three months or quarter of 1988 is still to be put together by an ongoing survey, NSO reports.

The agency, formerly the National Census and Statistics Office, a line agency of the National Economic and Development Authority, cites two prime reasons for the brightening employment situation in the country:

- Headway being gained by the government's aggressive recovery programme which also reflects political stability.
- The job generation project of

the national administration which this year looks to creating a million employment opportunities, particularly in the rural areas where majority of the jobless reside.

Increase in the number of citizens holding jobs indicates also an easing of the poverty situation estimated to be gripping 70 percent of the nation's households.

It cites an estimate from the labor department that the national workforce adds on 750,000 new members annually aside from the undiminished number of Filipinos applying for overseas jobs since no local employment opportunities are available.

Asian liftfest

A 14-man Philippine team will compete in the Asian Weightlifting Championships set May 19-27 in Shilong, Guangdong province, China.

Weightlifters who won medals in the 14th Southeast Asia Games in Jakarta last year are expected to dominate the Agosma meet.

Ten weightlifters and four officials will compose the team to China.

Diggers ask for extension

TIME is up for the International Precious Metals (IPM), the American firm financing and conducting the diggings for the fabled Yamashita treasures in Fort Santiago, unless Malacanang approves the 90-day permit extension period the IMP Americans sought last week.

Executive Secretary Catalino Macaraig told reporters that the IMP applied for extension of their permit after it expired Monday midnight.

"We're still studying it," Macaraig said.

An IPM spokesman, who refused to be identified, revealed that "as far as I know, no gold has been found yet."

The permit to dig at Fort Santiago was granted IPM in December 1987 and expired last March 4. It was extended until April 4.

Earlier, the IPM claimed they expected to find gold in less than two weeks from the time their treasure hunt was discovered in mid-February.

Land racket exposed

THE recent discovery of fake land titles to government properties, including vast forest lands, has once again focused public attention on a racket that has been going on for decades — causing huge losses to the government and massive destruction of public forests and national parks.

The flourishing racket, according to official findings, is perpetrated with the connivance of geodetic engineers and government personnel and even of judges as it involves the fraudulent titling of thousands of hectares of land belonging to the public domain.

A particular example is the issuance of a Torrens title to some 2,000 hectares of public land in a Northern Luzon province to a person which enabled him to secure a private timber land license.

Residents of the affected area, particularly civic groups, have asked lawyer Dakila Casto to be their legal counsel in filing the appropriate charges against those responsible for the issuance of the title.

The modus operandi in the illegal titling of public lands involves the use of a so-called Spanish title. With the connivance of forestry and lands officials, the supposed owners are able to appropriate an area for logging purposes.

Soon after the public land is converted to private land through the Torrens title scheme, all the trees, whether they are of commercial value or not, can be cut under the pretext of transforming the land into an agricultural area.

News leaks on talks anger US

US and Philippine negotiators resumed talks again on the status of American military bases after the chief US negotiator returned from consultations with a senior State Department official.

The atmosphere during the first week's sessions was clouded by news leaks and increasing calls in the Philippines for closing the bases.

Last Friday, the US negotiator, the ambassador, Nicholas Platt, flew to Hong Kong to brief the US Assistant Secretary of State, Gaston Sigur, on the talks.

On Saturday, the Philippine Foreign Secretary, Raul Manglapus, the chief Philippine

negotiator, reiterated his claim that the bases serve US and not Filipino interests.

The two sides began a three-month review of the 1947 bases agreement, which allows the US to use six military installations in the Philippines.

US and Filipino officials say the outcome is expected to influence Manila's decision on whether to allow the bases to remain after the agreement expires in 1991.

The atmosphere between the two panels soured early, when Filipino officials leaked details of a dispute over Manila's demand that the Americans obtain prior consent before launching com-

bat operations from the bases.

The US team boycotted a scheduled session last Thursday, and American sources said Platt was furious.

Manila newspapers viewed American anger as an example of Washington putting pressure on the Philippines in the talks. Manglapus also challenged claims by Platt that the installations are vital to counteract Soviet expansionism.

Meanwhile Philippine businessmen, nervous over new coup threats, plan to offer a reward for the capture of a fugitive army rebel after the military rejected private sector calls for a "shoot to kill" order, a senior official said.



Soldiers search for jewels

FISHERMEN living near Dingalan Bay near Aurora province were startled last week when a group of American and Filipino soldiers and undersea divers spent big money to rent bancast to search for a US Air Force jet which crashed in the vicinity some 12 years ago.

Sources said the jet was a courier plane carrying some \$50 million in cash and a huge quantity of jewels, all intended for the then First Lady Imelda Marcos.

The cash and jewels were allegedly in exchange for 200 tons of gold from Imelda's bullion recoveries. Imelda's treasure was reportedly brought to the US aboard a cargo plane originating from the Clark Air Base.

The jet with the cash and jewels was supposed to land at Clark also, Gen. Fabian Ver was, in fact, at Clark awaiting the jet's arrival when the pilot came over on radio and reported engine failure at 10,000 feet.

Minutes later, the radio went silent and a small group of fishermen watched in amazement as the jet hurtled into the sea a few hundred metres from their nets.

The Americans in the search team have been traced to a newly opened Makati firm. They claim to have state-of-the-art wealth detectors which they offer, thru classified ads, to Filipinos who feel they have treasures buried in their properties.

The cargo of the downed F-14, if found, will be easily worth several billion dollars because of the considerable value of the jewels. The recovery of this treasure was what allegedly prompted an American general to fly to the country through Clark, against the wishes of Presidents Reagan and Aquino.



Mrs. Imelda Marcos

Is Imelda returning?

CEBU CITY: All indications point to a Marcos return but Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos might still stay behind in Hawaii while the negotiations among the Cory government, the Marcoses and US authorities are still ongoing.

This was the perception of knowledgeable people in Hawaii, as reported by LP Young Turks head Rey T. Fajardo during a quick caucus this week with LP Young Turks in an undisclosed Cebu suburb.

Fajardo said US authorities were against an immediate homecoming of the former first couple simultaneously and were still trying to get more concessions from her, knowing FM's trait of consulting her during major decisions.

A troubling factor in the Mar-

cos decision to come home, according to Fajardo, was the thought that Mrs. Marcos would not relish the idea of being left behind if something untoward happened during the Marcos homecoming.

Fajardo said Marcos people in Hawaii thought it would be better for the image of the US to allow both Marcoses to return to the Philippines together.

Cebu Young Turks, reporting on the Young Turk-inspired campaign to bring the former president back to "clear up the air once and for all," said the various cause-oriented groups who had opposed the Marcos regime are now reacting favorably to the proposal so that Marcos and the Filipino people can have the opportunity to "make a clear breast of things."

Study on Aussie-Filipino 'problem marriages'

Media accounts exaggerated

By C. de Guzman

CANBERRA — The Queensland Church, through the Philippine embassy here, has revealed the first and the most authoritative study on Filipinos in Australia, particularly in the state of Queensland, centre of the so-called "problem marriages" between Filipinas and Australians.

Made by a priest commissioned by the Queensland Church, the 24-page report titled "The Pastoral Care of Filipinos" covered 15,000 individuals "if one were to say that the average family would include one child and a non-Filipino spouse."

The report is highlighted by five recommendations, including the screening of Australia men who apply for visas for prospective Filipino brides to enter Australia.

It could be gleaned from the report, however, that media reports on "problem marriages" between Filipinas and Australians were usually sensationalised or exaggerated.

The truth is, "the most worry-

ing aspect of the marriages concerns the 10 percent that do fail."

"Doctors and social workers in mental hospitals have said that patients quite often discuss marrying a Filipino bride once they are discharged, and there is evidence that they, in fact, do so. Others have had a criminal past."

The most common problem, however, is alcoholism leading to domestic violence.

Counsellors and social workers said that because of the traditional family loyalty of the Filipino wife, most women are hesitant to report such violence until severe physical and emotional damage has been done.

The report said a disproportionately large number of Filipino women are admitted to women's shelters. The ultimate cause lies in the image of the Filipino women as being subservient, an image that seems to attract a man with authoritarian tendencies.

There was a man who was jailed in the Philippines for the attempted murder of a woman he

intended to bring to Australia as a wife. Before this incident, he had spent two years in a mental institution. This was the third time he had gone to the Philippines to marry a local girl.

"Though this type of problem was rare when measured against the total number of relationships, the severity of the cases seemed to alarm professionals dealing with them," the report said.

A second area of concern is the adoption process, even in marriages that do, eventually, prove successful. The first few months, even years in some cases, seem to be traumatic with Filipinas complaining of severe depression and long periods of crying.

Separation from the family and the resultant grief and loneliness were the most obvious causes of pain.

Other causes mentioned were disillusionment with life in Australia and expectations not being met. Many believed they would have maids to do household chores, care for babies, assist in shopping, and others.

PBA basketball

Great Taste edge Ginebra

GREAT TASTE Instant Milk relied on the timely heroics of new recruit Alfredo Jarencio and Allan Caidic to edge Ginebra San Miguel, 131-129, in another bruising encounter this week in the PBA Open Conference at the Ultra.

The victory, fashioned out with the season's second free-for-all as a back-draw, was Great Taste's second in four games and lifted the Milkmasters to solo second. The Ginebras reeled to their third loss against one victory.

With the officiating bowling hot and cold, another fracas almost sent the game out of hand in the last five seconds of the game.

Jarencio, who earlier buried a drive that shoved GT to a mere 129-128 lead, 13 seconds to go, recovered a passing error by Ginebra import Jamie Waller intended for Robert Jaworski.

In desperation, Waller wrapped his arms around Jarencio to

send the latter to the floor in his embrace at midcourt and sparked a near free-for-all when in the ensuing scuffle, GT's Sonny Cabatu slapped Waller and Reynaldo Ramos followed up with punch to the right eye.

Because of the incident, which happened exactly two days after a punch-trading incident in the Ginebra-Purefoods game, the PBA summoned Cabatu and Ramos as well as Joey Loyzaga, who earlier committed a dangerous tripping foul on GT import Kenny Fields.

The referees should really be strict to all the players. This is the second time a near free-for-all almost happened and it is not nice for the League," said winning GT mentor Baby Dalupan, who immediately sent his "wounded" players to the hospital right after the game.

In the other game, Alaska Milk beat Shell, 122-111, to gain a share of first place with a 3-1 record.

Scores

First game

GT 131 — Fields 51, Caidic 22, Carpio 14, Cezar 12, Cristobal 7, Jarencio 6, Tumbales 6, Fabios 5, Co 4, Cabatu 4.

GINEBRA 129 — Walker 48, Ampalayo 16, Distrito 12, J. Loyzaga 11, Gonzales 9, Marañon 8, Jaworski 7, Isaac 4, Advani 4, Dumlao 4, Collins 4, Salazar 2.

Quarters: 25-32; 50-54; 94-89; 131-129.

Refs: G. Ledesma, M. Felipe, L. Salak Jr.

Second game

Alaska 122

Kennedy 46, Ravanes 17, Pearson 14, Saldaña 14, Villamin 9, Valenciano 8, Lino 4, Lazaro 4, Nelson 4, Polistico 0, Coloso 0.

SHELL 111 — Macklin 28, Eguerra 22, Jalmanco 15, Victorino 12, Austria 12, Cezar 10, Maganao 5, Sanchez 3, Antonio 2, Herrera 2, Ang 0, Villapando 0.

Quarters: 23-23; 61-52; 93-80; 122-111.

Refs: C. Ocampo Jr., R. Benabe, R. Hiles.

Team standings

Team	W	L
Alaska Milk	3	1
San Miguel	3	1
Purefoods	3	1
Great Taste	2	2
Ginebra	1	3
Shell Helix	0	4

Vilma: what is the secret of her success?

IT is amusing to imagine that, in one of her previous lives, the soul that is now Vilma Santos must have run into Ponce de Leon as he searched in vain on Bimini Island for the mythical Fountain of Youth.

How she must have been amazed at the feverishness of his search. Since she herself had come upon the Fountain quite effortlessly and almost by instinct!

A quarter of a century in the hectic world of show business can leave its mark on any person. It would be understandable if one grew a hard shell of cynicism, or showed signs of premature aging.

So, we were unprepared for the glowing, youthful beauty of 34-year-old Vi, sans make-up, except for a faint trace of eye-shadow.

We caught her during supper break between recording sessions and dance rehearsals for her TV programme the following night, so the pinkness of her cheeks could not have been due to recent physical exertion.

Vi has always stipulated that as little make-up as possible be used on her skin. Despite her unorthodox working hours, she makes it a point to get enough sleep (six hours for her) everyday.

Apart from that, there is no regimen that she follows to keep her skin fresh and young-looking. She's just one of those lucky people with perfect skin.

Her peaches-and-cream complexion and her smallness make it possible for her to be paired with very young leading men, like Eric Quizon (Ibulong Mo sa Diyos) and Richard Gomez

(Tagos ng Dugo), without any discernible age gap. In fact, it is when she has to be paired with older co-stars that they have to use make-up to "mature" her.

It is not only in chronological age that her numerous leading men differ greatly, but in professional age as well — from neophytes like Gary Valenciano and Joe Marquez to veterans like Eddie Garcia and the late Dindo Fernando.

It is in this area that Vi sometimes encounters some difficulty, for the newcomers tend to treat her like a "star", an attitude that can dampen their

acting capabilities. So she often has to exert extra effort to make them feel at ease and thus establish a more comfortable working relationship.

Of the countless leading men that she has had, she finds Christopher de Leon the easiest to work with, though she suspects that their quick rapport may have been the result of familiarity, since they had worked on many projects together.

Being forced to exercise on a fairly regular basis when she rehearses for her TV show may also contribute to her youthful looks. Her proximity to her fans

during the programme also serves to invigorate her. She even welcomes the Norman-Vilmanian rivalry, since it keeps her on her toes.

Being still in her prime, she hasn't given any serious thought to cosmetic surgery, but sees nothing wrong in other people resorting to it to maintain their looks. For herself, though, she suspends any categorical answer, and smilingly says, instead, that there is such a thing as "growing old gracefully, isn't there?"

Since she had started working at the tender age of nine, we wondered if she ever had a chance to enjoy the simple pleasures of childhood.

She admits that she never had a childhood in the "normal" sense, and even had to stop schooling after finishing high school. There were no real friends, no bakada, no dates, no parties, no outings.

Yet she feels no regret at this "lack", content with the "fun" she had in the many teenager's roles she played in her real life.

What about "moods"? She's very moody, she replies, but she doesn't go into tantrums. Instead, she retreats quietly from the world, preferring to be alone or with her son, Lucky — not brooding, not even thinking of anything.

She just craves everything from her mind until it is completely blank — no cares, no woes, no burts ... just herself ... just being.

Perhaps Vi doesn't realise it, but it is during these "blank" moments that she renews herself. It is within this vacuum that she has chanced upon her Fountain of Youth.



Vilma Santos: still going strong

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Ministers and bankers put economy on the road to recovery

Economic optimism chastened by markets

WASHINGTON, April 16, (Reuters): Finance ministers and central bankers from the industrialised democracies are confident that they have put the world economy on the road to recovery but the markets remain uncovered.

News of a wider than expected \$13.83 billion US trade deficit in February sent share prices on Wall Street plunging on Thursday to their fifth biggest fall and pushed the dollar three pence and three farthings.

The announcement of a sharper than expected 0.6 per cent rise in US producer price inflation yesterday stoked fears that US interest rates would have to rise.

Strategy But officials at international monetary meetings in Washington this week put a brave face on the market turbulence.

They said traders and investors were over-reacting to an aberration in one month's statistics.

and insisted their strategy of boosting their economies by cutting taxes and liberalising markets was still correct.

"The events of yesterday are no reason to call this strategy of gradual improvement in the trade and current account balances into question," West German Finance Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg said yesterday.

Finance ministers and central bank governors of the Group of Seven (G-7) leading industrial nations on Wednesday expressed optimism that their strategy of cooperation was working.

A G-7 communiqué welcomed evidence of gradually improving world trade balances and greater exchange rate stability.

The markets remain acutely sensitive to statistics drawing attention to the unhealthy state of the world economy.

The G-7 nations, whose strategy of structural change is inevitably long-term, responded

to last week's dollar weakness by massive intervention on the foreign exchange markets, buying hundreds of millions of dollars unwanted by investors.

Although G-7 officials underlined their determination to support the dollar on the markets if necessary, the central banks know they cannot intervene indefinitely.

Impression

"There cannot be unlimited guarantees by central banks or governments to step into markets because that would give the wrong impression," said Dutch Finance Minister Onno Ruding, who chairs the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) policy-making interim committee.

The interim committee called yesterday for resolute action and cooperation policies to avoid the risks to the world economic outlook.

If the central banks of Japan

and West Germany buy dollars they have to push their own currencies out into the market, effectively printing money and creating a danger of inflation.

On the other hand if the stubborn US trade deficit pushes the dollar down to make American exports cheaper and imports dearer US interest rates could rise.

Expectations

"If there were strong expectations that the dollar would be sharply devalued then American interest rates would rise because the Americans must finance a current account deficit of \$150 billion this year with capital imports," West Germany's Stoltenberg said.

The foreign investors who finance the US budget deficit by buying government securities would want a higher return to compensate for currency losses.

Higher interest rates are the last thing the US government

wants in an election year. A rise in interest rates would make credit more expensive, hurting private household and business.

This could spark a sell-off of shares in a market still mindful of last October's stockmarket crash.

"I don't think anybody wants to see any increase in interest rates," said Canada's Finance Minister Michael Wilson. "It wouldn't be good for our countries or for the health of the developing countries."

Rates

But markets are speculating that the Federal Reserve Board, the US central bank, will have to raise interest rates, and not only to support the dollar.

Recent statistics, crowned by yesterday's producer price data, suggest the US economy is growing so strongly that worries of a revival of inflation have replaced fears of recession.

The United States could decide to cut the budget deficit further but this is ruled out in an election year and probably could not be fitted into Congress's schedule.

The main US trading partners, Japan and West Germany, have ruled out any interest rate cuts of their own to help the dollar. Their discount rates are at record lows.

Spending West Germany, running a record budget deficit, is unable to stimulate its economy by tax cuts or increased government spending.

Beryl Sprinkel, chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, agreed that currency intervention was not a long-term solution. He said the answer had to be a mix of US budget cuts to dampen domestic demand, matched by a stimulus of domestic demand in West Germany and Japan.

Egyptian exports to S. Arabia to get special treatment

CAIRO, April 16, (Reuters): Saudi Arabia has agreed to give preferential treatment for Egyptian exports, Minister of Cabinet Affairs Atef Ebeid said today on his return from a Gulf tour.

"It has been agreed that Saudi Arabia give special customs treatment for Egyptian exports," the National Middle East News Agency quoted him as saying after visiting the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

He did not elaborate but said Saudi Economy Minister Sheikh Mohammed Ali Abal-Khalil would visit Egypt on Sunday for discussions on boosting economic ties.

Plans

Ebeid said earlier in Abu Dhabi that officials from Egypt and the three Gulf states would soon meet to discuss plans to revive the Arab Organisation for Industrialisation (AOI), a joint arms production group formed 13 years ago, Ebeid said.

The three Gulf states withdrew from the AOI in protest at Cairo's 1979 peace treaty with Israel, but have since restored ties with Egypt.

Coca-Cola Co. reports 13.5pc rise in profits

ATLANTA, April 16, (Reuters): Coca-Cola Co. reported today that its first-quarter profits rose 13.5 per cent to \$211 million, reflecting a surge in its worldwide soft-drink sales and gains from the dollar's steep decline.

The company's operating earnings increased even more dramatically, jumping 34 per cent to \$360.7 million, but net earnings were weighed down by a \$51-million loss on an investment in Columbia Pictures Entertainment Inc. and the weak performance of the firm's food operations.

The Atlanta-based company's revenues rose to \$1.87 billion from \$1.55 billion in 1987's first quarter.

Volume

Coca-Cola controls 40 per cent of America's soft-drink market, but relies on overseas sales for more than half of its operating income.

Coca-Cola's worldwide soft-drink volume rose 9 per cent. Operating income additionally was helped by a 16 per cent drop in the dollar against key foreign currencies from year-ago levels, so revenues translated into larger sums of dollars.

Saudi fertiliser firm begins production

RIVADH, April 16, (Opecna): The Saudi Fertiliser Company (Ibn Al Baytar) started commercial production as of January this year. It was reported here yesterday.

The company went on stream in August last year with a projected production of 500,000 tons of liquid ammonia per year. The whole production is for export.

Saudi Arabia is planning to expand the plant over the next two years to increase its capacity to 800,000 tonnes of compound fertiliser and urea.

Ibn Al-Baytar is one of 14 plants affiliated to Sahic, Saudi Arabian Basic Industries. These include 11 petrochemical plants, two steel plants and an industrial gas plant.

Fed likely to tighten credit

More bad vibrations on Wall Street

NEW YORK, April 16, (AP): Halfway between the 1987 crash and the 1988 election, Wall Street finds itself at an uneasy crossroads.

In the view of many analysts, just about all the standard signals these days seem to point toward higher interest rates, tighter credit and a tough setting for a stock market still feeling after shocks from the collapse last fall.

The economic news lately has produced a series of disappointments only a bear could love.

Hopes for continued progress on the nation's trade problems were dashed on Thursday when the Commerce department reported that the US trade deficit unexpectedly widened in February.

Investors were especially unhappy to see that, while exports remained strong, imports grew even more rapidly.

Yesterday, the Labour Department said the producer price index of finished goods rose 0.6

per cent in March for its largest increase in 11 months.

All that seemed to give the Federal Reserve two significant reasons to think about next steps toward tightening credit — not only to support the dollar in foreign exchange, but also to keep the domestic economy from heating up to an inflationary pitch.

Even before the latest economic developments, the Fed had shown signs that it was pulling in the reins a bit in its credit policy.

Allen Sinai, economist at Boston Co. and Economic Advisors Inc., described this as an apparent strategy of "earlier preventative action" intended to forestall the need for more drastic measures later on.

But Sinai added that the Fed might have trouble making this approach work.

"Throughout post-war history," he said, "when the economy and inflation have picked up momentum, small changes of interest rates have not had much

effect." In the crush of adverse news on trade and inflation, the Dow Jones average of 30 industrials fell 76.26 points to 2,013.93 in the past week after touching new post-crash highs on Monday and Tuesday.

Dropped

The New York stock Exchange composite index dropped 5.03 to 147.00; the Nasdaq composite index for the over-the-counter market fell 7.93 to 373.90, and the American Stock Exchange market value index decreased 1.25 to 299.24.

Volume on the Big Board averaged 183.57 million shares a day, against 170.89 million the week before.

With Alan Greenspan, a Republican, at the helm, some say the Fed might be predisposed to keep credit conditions relaxed enough to avoid hurting the Republican party's chances in the November presidential elections.

Congress may not be able to override trade bill veto

WASHINGTON, April 16, (Reuters): Legislation aimed at curbing the chronic US trade deficit may founder because of a political dispute over the way US employers lay off workers, lawmakers say.

The legislation, which would give the US trade representative more power to deal with unfair practices by America's trading partners, has run into a labour law conflict between its congressional supporters and the White House.

"Bad economics" was how White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater labelled part of the bill which would compel plants with more than 100 employees to give at least 60 days' notice before shutting down or laying off a large number of workers.

Lawmakers who have spent more than a year preparing the massive bill fear that it would effectively be killed off if President Reagan goes ahead with a threat to veto the whole thing unless the 60-day provisions are dropped.

The House of Representatives and the Senate could overturn a White House veto only if both voted by a two-thirds majority, and even the bill's most ardent

supporters doubt whether this would be possible.

Fitzwater said yesterday that Reagan had decided to veto the legislation if it goes to his desk in its present form.

Fitzwater said the 60-day provision would build in rigidities that would make it more difficult to save endangered companies.

"While the administration would be willing to accept a positive trade bill, we cannot accept one that includes seriously flawed elements that will hurt America's competitiveness," he said.

Augustus Hawkins, chairman of the House of Representatives Education and Labour Committee, said Congress might not be able to override a Reagan veto of the bill.

"There will be a lot of private interests involved in the defeat of this bill," the Democrat from California told Reuters in an interview.

"It's worth the battle," he said. "I think the issue is: can we override? And that may be a remote possibility. I'm not so sure we can."

"We worked a long time for this," said Hawkins, whose dis-

trict includes parts of Los Angeles. "We represent areas where the problem is serious. Plants are closing, layoffs are occurring, and it would just be ignoring these people if we compromised."

Senator Lloyd Bensten, who heads the Senate negotiators trying to reach a compromise acceptable to the White House and Congress, said he hoped Reagan would reconsider his position, because the bill had many strong provisions pleasing to the administration.

Democratic leaders hope the unexpectedly bad February trade deficit figures, which jumped more than 11 per cent over the previous month to \$13.8 billion, will increase pressure on the president to sign the trade bill.

Administration officials, however, counter that the negative reaction of financial markets around the world to the deficit figures only stiffens Reagan's resolve.

The 199 members of the House and Senate negotiating committee have until Tuesday to accept or reject the final bill before it is voted on separately by the two parts of Congress.

IMF meetings end amid optimism about Third World debt

WASHINGTON, April 16, (Reuters): The International Monetary Fund and World Bank ended a week of meetings here amid unusual optimism about prospects for easing Third World debt problems.

Previous meetings had often been marked by clashes between rich and poor countries among the IMF's 151 members over the best ways of tackling the crisis, now in its sixth year.

But this time the two international lending agencies, without ignoring the heavy debts and deep poverty still confronting many developing countries, dwelt on the positive steps that have been taken in the past six months.

Change

Agreement had been reached on a \$75 billion cash infusion for the World Bank, rich countries had agreed to triple the pool of money available on easy terms to the poorest nations of sub-Saharan Africa, and commercial banks had developed innovative market mechanisms to reduce countries' debt loads.

"There's a real sense of momentum," Dav Hopper, a senior World Bank official, told

a news conference yesterday.

Zimbabwe's Finance Minister, Bernard Chidzero, told the same conference he had detected a perceptible change in the attitude of industrial countries, which were now realising that a worsening of the debt crisis could have severe economic and political repercussions in the developed world.

"There is a revival of the spirit of multilateralism to solve common problems," Chidzero said.

World Bank president Barber Conable proposed giving countries more time to repay their loans and he wanted to scrap the fee charged on credits from the bank's soft-loan affiliate, the International Development Association.

IMF managing director Michel Camdessus won backing for a contingency mechanism that would cushion countries already following fund policies from economic shocks beyond its control, such as a rise in interest rates or a drop in commodity prices or tourism revenues.

World Business Summary

US businesses plan to boost capital spending by 8pc

WASHINGTON, April 16, (AP): US businesses plan to increase capital spending by 8 per cent this year, the government reported yesterday, raising hopes that manufacturers will expand factory capacity enough to ease long-term inflation pressures. The Commerce Department said US companies expect to spend \$419.9 billion, after adjustments for inflation, on expansion and modernisation this year. If realised, that would be the best gain since a 9.6 per cent rise in 1985.

Businesses spent \$388.7 billion last year, a 1.7 per cent increase over 1986. The new estimate for 1988, based on a survey completed in March, represented an increase over a survey finished in November, when businesses said they planned to spend 7.3 per cent more.

"That's good for inflation in the longer term," said Maury Harris, chief economist of PaineWebber financial firm in New York. "That added capacity helps meet demand. If they weren't increasing their capital spending, I'd worry." A separate report by the Labour Department yesterday, showing wholesale prices advancing at a 7 per cent annual rate, renewed inflation fears among investors. Adding to the concern is the fact that the operating rate at factories, at 82.4 per cent of capacity in February, is the highest in eight years. The Federal Reserve plans to release data for March on Monday. Lawrence Chimere, president of the Wafa Group, a Philadelphia-area forecasting firm, said if businesses follow through on their plans, they will be able to produce more.

Brazil seeks easier repayment terms, not debt forgiveness

NEW YORK, April 16, (AP): Brazilian Finance Minister Mailson Ferreira Da Nobrega says he is intensifying efforts to achieve full normalisation of relations between the international financial community and Brazil, the Third World's biggest debtor.

Nobrega said yesterday that Brazil wants easier repayment terms, not debt forgiveness. In February last year Brazil unilaterally suspended interest payments on \$67 billion it owes to foreign commercial banks. But since Nobrega took office three months ago it has resumed some payments and the country has made progress in talks with its creditors. Nobrega spoke yesterday at a meeting attended by about 300 businessmen and bankers to discuss investment possibilities in Brazil with top Brazilian officials. Nobrega said Brazil, which owes a total of \$108 billion abroad, welcomes any foreign investment that strengthens its productive capacity. Arnim Lore, director of the Brazilian Central Bank's foreign department, explained details of a Brazilian plan to swap foreign debts for investments in Brazil. Fielding questions, Lore said he recognises that Brazilian exchange controls can lock foreign investors into losses whenever the Brazilian cruzado is devalued. He said the Central Bank is preparing a plan to deal with this risk, and that once the foreign debt problem is settled, the Brazilian foreign exchange market will be at least partially free.

Egypt raises oil prices

CAIRO, April 16, (AP): Egypt decided yesterday to increase the price of its export oil varieties by up to 60 cents a barrel in the second half of April, the Oil Ministry said. A barrel of the top-grade Gulf of Suez and Belayim will go up to the maximum 60 cents, Gulf of Suez in \$14.85 from \$14.25 and Belayim to \$14 from \$13.40. The price of Rag Badran will be 20 cents a barrel higher, to \$13.10 from \$12.90, and the increase on the lowest grade Rag Badran will be 10 cents, to \$12.40 from \$12.30.

New prices were effective from April 16 through April 30. The increases, the second in a month, were announced by Hamed Ayoub, head of the ministry's foreign sales department. He said they reflect improvements in world oil prices due to the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries' efforts to cooperate with non-Opec countries. Opec members are to convene meetings this month with Egypt and other non-Opec oil producers to consider shared production restraints in an attempt to stabilise the world oil market. Egypt produces 870,000 barrels of oil daily, of which half is exported. It sets its prices generally in line with Opec policies. After two price reductions in March, Egypt raised its prices for the first half of April by one dollar a barrel on all grades.

Texaco to sell additional assets

NEW YORK, April 16, (AP): Texaco Inc. announced yesterday it will resume paying a quarterly dividend and will sell off an additional \$2 billion in assets as part of its restructuring.

At its first meeting since Texaco emerged from chapter 11 bankruptcy court reorganisation on April 7, the oil giant's board of directors authorised a 75-cent quarterly dividend, a move analysts said would calm shareholder concerns about the value of the company's stock. Texaco had been barred from paying dividends after it filed for bankruptcy protection on April 12, 1987, in the wake of its legal battle with Pennzoil Co. The company said the dividend will be paid on June 10 to shareholders of record on May 3. James W. Kinneer, Texaco's president and chief executive officer, said in a statement that the resumption of dividends "at a substantial rate demonstrates Texaco's confidence that this expanded restructuring will enable us to build a more profitable company on a solid core of our most productive assets." Directors said they planned to sell off \$5 billion in assets to increase the company's flexibility by reducing debt.

In its 1987 annual report, Texaco had said it hoped to raise at least \$3 billion through the sale of assets, but Friday's action increased that amount by 2 billion. Texaco said the sale would include "producing, manufacturing and marketing assets, both domestic and overseas."

Last week Texaco confirmed it is negotiating to sell its West German subsidiary, which operates 1,903 gas stations in Germany. Officials said the operation could fetch as much as \$1.7 billion.

Indonesia appeals to non-Opec countries to control oil output

JAKARTA, April 16, (Reuters): President Suharto of Indonesia appealed to non-Opec oil producers to control their oil output to help push crude prices back up.

Speaking ahead of a crucial meeting between the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) and seven non-Opec producers later this month in Vienna, Suharto said it was in their interests to curb production.

Opec moderates Venezuela and Indonesia coordinated strategy during a visit by Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi, who left yesterday for a private visit to Bangkok.

Stable

"It is increasingly felt lately, and greater awareness is emerging, that a reasonable and stable price level is not just in the interest of Opec members alone, but is also in the interest of non-Opec producing countries," Suharto said in a speech on Wed-

nesday at a banquet for Lusinchi.

He said the whole world would benefit from stable and what he termed reasonable oil prices.

Venezuela and Indonesia, along with Nigeria, have formed a moderate, non-Arab bloc within Opec which is attempting to bridge differences within the 13-member organisation over how to bring prices back up to a target of \$18.

Importance

Suharto described the cooperation between Indonesia and Venezuela within Opec as historic. "We must consolidate cooperation so that oil prices become stable at a reasonable level," he stated.

Lusinchi in his speech said Indonesia was an important influence within Opec.

"I would like to acknowledge the importance of the Indonesian presence within Opec, where its independent opinions, good judgement and loyalty to the cause of developing peoples have

undoubtedly helped to consolidate and project our organisation," he stated.

"Venezuela shares those principles. To strengthen them at this stage in the oil market is fundamental to Opec's future and is of vital interest to all our countries," he added.

He said Venezuela and Indonesia, who are both members of the Opec price monitoring committee, should work together closely as a team.

Lusinchi was accompanied by his ministers of energy and foreign affairs.

Energy Minister Arturo Hernandez Grisanti is scheduled to go on to Malaysia, Oman, Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

Malaysia, Oman and Egypt are part of the seven non-Opec producers, along with Mexico, China, Colombia and Angola, who are scheduled to meet with Opec in Vienna on April 23 to discuss measures to prop up the oil market.

Saudis issue licences for 19 new projects

RIVADH, April 16, (Opecna): The Saudi Arabian ministry of industry and electricity issued new licences for the establishment of 19 projects during the first six months of the Islamic year which began in September last year.

Mohammed Ali Al Mosalam, the ministry's assistant under-secretary for industrial affairs, said the new projects included 10 industrial projects at an estimated cost of about \$360 million.

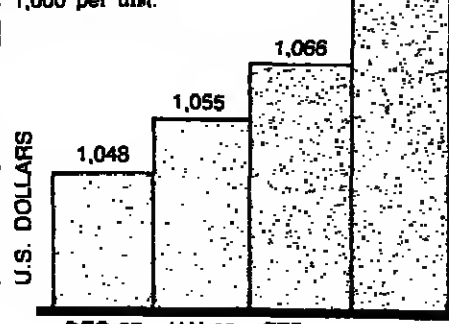
Maintenance

According to the Saudi Press Agency (SPA), of these projects, Al Salam aircraft company will specialise in the production, manufacture, assembly, repair and maintenance of bodies and parts of aircraft.

Another company, specialising in computer system, will provide services and facilities within the country.

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Handwritten signature: J. Al-Khalil

Alshall stock price indices

Kuwait trading volume surges

ALSHALL index for Kuwaiti shareholding companies recorded on Wednesday an average of 36.33 points with a decrease of 0.57 points from last week. Alshall index for Gulf shareholding companies reached 47.31 points with an increase of 0.52 points for the same period.

The trading volume for Kuwaiti shares reached 11.83 million shares at a daily average of 2.37 million shares with an increase of 14.5 per cent over the previous week's daily average of 2.07 million shares.

Gulf traded shares reached 13.48 million shares at a daily average of 2.36 million shares.

The value of Kuwaiti traded shares was KD4,282 million at a daily average of KD0.856 million, an increase of 40.5 per cent over last week's daily average of KD0.609 million.

The value of Gulf traded shares was KD0.412 million at a daily average of KD0.082 million, an increase of 15.5 per cent over last week's daily average of KD0.071 million.

The market was more active than the previous week especially for Gulf shares where the relative weight of Coast Investment Company in the index was adjusted to reflect the stock dividend made by the company.

The margin between the two indices at 11 points in favour of Gulf shares index reached its highest level since the Gulf shares index exceeded Kuwaiti shares index almost a year ago.

For Kuwaiti shares, the Banking Sector maintained its lead at 62.2 per cent of total trading of which the Gulf Bank has 35.8 per cent, Kuwait National Bank 33.8 per cent and The Commercial Bank 11 per cent.

The Services Sector came second at 24.4 per cent of total trading of which Kuwait Commercial Markets had 69 per cent, Mobile Telephone Systems 28 per cent and Public Warehousing Company 3 per cent. The Investment Sector came third at 7.4 per cent of which Commercial Facilities had 48 per cent, Investment Pearl Kuwait 18 per cent and International Financial Advisors "IFA" 17 per cent.

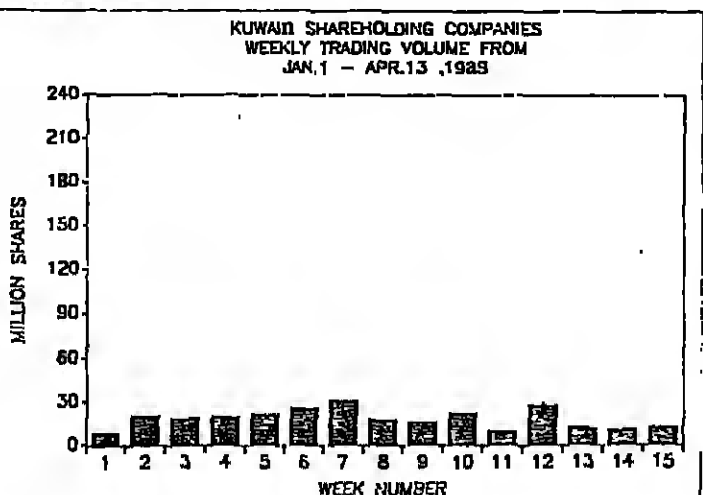
For Gulf shares the Other Companies Sector had 77.3 per cent of the total trading with Ras Al Khaima White Cement having 75.5 per cent of total Gulf shares traded volume, Bahrain International Bank 8.6 per cent and Coast Investment and Development 6.4 per cent.

From time to time some of the recent announcements are calling for restructuring some of the companies as all the previous attempts to make them active in trading did not work.

Kuwait shareholding companies index			
	Wednesday 13/04/88	Wednesday 06/04/88	Change
Banking Sector			
Kuwait National Bank	88.27	88.27	—
The Gulf Bank	27.25	28.51	-1.26
The Commercial Bank	20.90	21.25	-0.35
Al Ahli Bank	25.95	26.91	-0.96
Bank of Kuwait & M. East	25.87	26.75	-0.88
Kuwait R. Estate Bank	30.16	30.16	—
Burgan Bank	23.39	24.38	-0.99
Kuwait Finance House	61.23	61.98	-0.76
Services Sector			
Kuwait Investment Co.	28.70	31.43	-2.73
Kuwait Int. Invest. Co.	26.12	27.84	-1.72
Inv. Pearl Kuwait	80.95	82.54	-1.59
IFA	72.06	75.00	-2.94
Commercial Facilities			
Sector Index	37.40	38.68	-2.28
Insurance Sector			
Kuwait Insurance Co.	37.51	37.51	—
Gulf Insurance Co.	28.46	28.46	—
Al Ahlia Insurance Co.	45.09	45.09	—
Warba Insurance Co.	71.31	72.16	-0.86
Sector Index	38.19	38.24	-0.05

Real Estate Sector			
Kuwait Real Estate	30.59	30.59	—
United Realty	12.96	12.96	—
National Real Estate	45.39	45.39	—
Sector Index	22.86	22.86	—
Industrial Sector			
Kuwait Cement Co.	16.22	16.22	—
Refrigeration Indust.	80.51	80.51	—
Gulf Cables	99.76	99.76	—
Kuwait Pharmaceutical	48.89	50.67	-1.78
Sector Index	31.26	31.34	-0.08
Services Sector			
Kuwait Computer Co.	207.36	207.36	—
Kuwait Cinema Co.	9.04	9.04	—
Public Warehousing Co.	68.69	68.69	—
Kuwait Comm. Markets Co.	40.95	38.95	2.00
Mobile Telephone Syst.	342.86	338.10	4.76
Sector Index	62.35	61.66	0.68
Food Sector			
Livestock Trad. & Transp.	48.82	48.82	—
United Fisheries	10.34	10.34	—
Kuwait United Poultry	87.28	87.28	—
Kuwait Food Co.	65.52	73.56	-8.05
Sector Index	42.62	44.00	-1.38
Overall Index	36.33	36.91	-0.57

Gulf shareholding companies index			
	Wednesday 13/04/88	Wednesday 06/04/88	Change
Financial Companies			
First Gulf Bank	163.16	163.16	—
United Gulf Bank	34.48	34.48	—
Bahrain Internat. Bank	92.41	92.41	—
Bahrain M. East Bank	85.42	89.22	-3.80
Gulf Investments Co.	61.03	61.03	—
Coast Inv. & Dev. Co.	76.19	72.73	3.46
Bahrain Kuwait Inv. Gro.	65.71	62.62	3.09
Arabian Gen. Inv. (Shuaa)	59.85	59.09	0.76
Sector Index	62.72	62.03	0.69
Other Companies			
Gulf Cement (fully paid)	12.83	12.83	—
Sharjah Cement	10.50	10.50	—
Fujairah Cement	9.87	10.53	-0.66
Ras Al Khaima W. Cement	24.44	23.33	1.11
Gulf Medical Projects	18.21	18.21	—
Sector Index	15.01	14.84	0.17
Overall Index	47.31	46.79	0.52



KD deposit rates steady in quiet trading

KUWAITI dinar deposit rates were steady yesterday in quiet trading.

Dealers reported business only in the one-month, which dealt at 5-7/8 per cent from 5-3/4 and 5-1/2 per cent on Thursday.

The short dates were again well offered amid high liquidity from last week's Central Bank support fund payments.

Overnight was offered at 1/2 per cent and tomorrow and spot next at nine per cent but there were few or no reported deals. One-week was quiet at 6-1/2, 5-1/2, 2 per cent.

Rates changed little during the day and were quoted at the close at six, 5-1/2 per cent for the one-month and 6-1/8, 5-5/8 per cent for the two through 12-month maturities.

The Central Bank did not announce new Treasury bills or bonds yesterday.

Firm

Its dinar exchange rate was a full point firmer at 0.27358/68 to the dollar from 0.27478/88 on Thursday, reflecting the dollar's decline on international exchange markets. Commercial banks quoted spot rates of around 0.27358/65.

Meanwhile, Saudi rial deposits firmed at the short end of the market in a brief flurry of activity early in the day sparked by tightness in day-to-day funds.

Dealers said short-term maturities continued to firm as banks covered themselves ahead of the traditionally quiet Muslim holy month of Ramadan, expected to start today.

Some business was also reported in one and two-month deposits as banks borrowed riya for arbitrage deals.

Funds

Spot-next and one-week funds edged up 1/4 point to 7-1/4, 6-3/4 per cent with traded reported in both at seven per cent tomorrow next was also bid at seven per cent.

One-month funds edged up 1/8 point on the offer side to 6-7/8, 11/16 per cent. Two and three-months firmed 1/16 point to 6-15/16, 3/4 per cent and seven, 6-13/16 per cent respectively.

Moody's top rating for SBI

STATE Bank of India has been assigned the rating of Prime-1 (P-1) by Moody's of New York, one of the top two credit rating agencies in the world.

P-1 is the highest rating given by Moody's to short-term debt issues like commercial paper. This is the first time that any Indian institution has been given a rating by agency for use in foreign money markets.

Moody's, being a prestigious international rating agency, is very exacting in its standards. So, very few banks from the developing countries go in for a rating from this agency.

The SBI took the initiative last year to obtain a formal rating through a rigorous exercise involving an implicit sovereign rating as well.

In making this very favourable rating, the SBI joins a select band of major banks from the developed world and just one or two banks from the developing countries.

Achievement This unique achievement by SBI would reduce borrowing costs in the international markets not only for SBI borrowings but also for other Indian public and private sector borrowings.

The ratings given by Moody's or other top rating agency such as Standard and Poor of New York, have considerable impact on the money market instruments issued by the borrowers in the market.

The investors in these markets implicitly go by these ratings in investing their funds in these instruments as the ratings have been done by the agencies by assessing the abilities of the borrowers in servicing these instruments.

Thus, a bank's or a company's performance is continuously monitored by the rating agencies in regard to profits, market share, overdues, bad debts and such other factors to assess whether the borrower is able to service its own debts.

Funds In the same token, a good rating given by a rating agency—as in the case of SBI now—means the borrowing company of the bank may get funds at cheaper costs. The investor does not mind accepting lower returns on his funds given to a higher-rated borrower, because the returns as well as the original funds are more secure than in the case of lower-rated borrowers.

The rating agencies, thus, provide a yemen service to the investors, who generally do not have the expertise or the time to follow the performances of thousands of individual borrowers in the markets.

It is interesting to know that investors abroad, who are generally more sophisticated and knowledgeable, depend on the credit agencies for guidance on their investments.

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KUWAIT

BANK SECTOR	P.CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRADE
NATIONAL BANK	0.870	0.870	0.870	0.870	5000	1
GULF BANK	0.325	0.325	0.325	0.325	110000	6
COMMERCIAL BK	0.240	0.240	0.240	0.240	20000	1
ALHI BANK	0.270	0.270	0.270	0.270	40000	3
A.K.M.E.	0.295	0.295	0.295	0.295	20000	1
K.R.E.	0.380	—	—	—	—	—
BURGAN BANK	0.256	0.254	0.254	0.254	20000	1
K.F. HOUSE	0.405	0.410	0.410	0.410	20000	2

INVESTMENT SECTOR	P.CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRADE
K.M.T. INV. CO.	0.168	—	—	—	—	—
K.F.T.C.I.C.	0.210	—	—	—	—	—
K.T.I.C.	0.152	—	—	—	—	—
COM. FACILITIES	0.380	—	—	—	—	—
ALHIA INV.	0.000	—	—	—	—	—
T.F.A.	0.098	—	—	—	—	—
INV. PEARL KWT	0.102	—	—	—	—	—

REAL ESTATE SECTOR	P.CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRADE
K.M.T. R.E. CO.	0.240	—	—	—	—	—
UNI R.E. CO.	0.116	0.116	0.116	0.116	80000	3
NAT R.E. CO.	0.224	—	—	—	—	—
SALWAH R.E.	0.075	—	—	—	—	—
K.M.T. PROJ.	0.087	0.086	0.086	0.086	80000	2
K.M.T. R.E. I. CO.	0.000	—	—	—	—	—

INDUSTRIAL SECTOR	P.CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRADE
K.M.T. IND. CO.	0.510	—	—	—	—	—
NAT IND. CO.	0.295	—	—	—	—	—
K.M.T. CEMENT CO.	0.238	—	—	—	—	—
REF. IND. CO.	0.385	—	—	—	—	—
N.A.M.T. CO.	0.000	—	—	—	—	—
GULF CABLE	0.970	—	—	—	—	—
K.P.H. IND. CO.	0.110	—	—	—	—	—
CON. MARINE	0.350	—	—	—	—	—
K.S.H. REP. CO.	0.042	—	—	—	—	—

SERVICES SECTOR	P.CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRADE
OVERLAND TRANS	0.081	—	—	—	—	—
K.M.C. CO.	0.190	—	—	—	—	—
K.M.T. HOTELS CO.	0.174	—	—	—	—	—
P. WAREHOUSING	0.136	—	—	—	—	—
CON. MKT. CMX.	0.020	—	—	—	—	—
MOBILE TELE.	0.360	0.355	0.355	0.355	60000	3
K.M.T. COMPUTER	0.192	—	—	—	—	—

FOOD SECTOR	P.CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRADE
LIVESTOCK T.T.	0.240	—	—	—	—	—
UNTO FISHERIES	0.146	—	—	—	—	—
UNTO POULTRY	0.238	—	—	—	—	—
K.M.T. FOODS	0.285	—	—	—	—	—
AGRI. FOOD PRD.	0.150	—	—	—	—	—
NON-KWT SECTOR						
B.H.N. INTER. BK	0.067	0.067	0.067	0.067	80000	2
B.H.N. N. EAST. BK	0.045	—	—	—	—	—
UNTO. GULF BK	0.000	—	—	—	—	—
COAST INVEST.	0.080	0.078	0.078	0.078	480000	6
A.G. INV. CORP.	0.039	0.039	0.039	0.039	80000	1
FIRST GULF BK	0.620	—	—	—	—	—
B.K.T.G.	0.085	—	—	—	—	—

KUWAIT STOCK EXCHANGE	P.CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRADE
FINANCIAL SECTOR						
PEARL INV. CO.	0.098	—	—	—	—	—
GULF INV. CO.	0.041	—	—	—	—	—
GULF INTL. INS.	0.009	—	—	—	—	—
ARAB INT. CO.	0.055	—	—	—	—	—
SHARJAH INS.	0.000	—	—	—	—	—
GULF UNION INS.	0.055	—	—	—	—	—

INDUSTRIAL SECTOR	P.CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRADE
B-GULF MEDICAL	0.016	—	—	—	—	—
C-R.K. WHITE CHNT	0.022	—	—	—	—	—
D-AJMAN CEMENT	0.007	—	—	—	—	—
E-FUJAIRAH CEMENT	0.010	—	—	—	—	—
F-SHARJAH CEMENT	0.010	—	—	—	—	—
G-SHARJAH CEMENT	0.015	—	—	—	—	—
H-UNW QATWAIN	0.019	—	—	—	—	—

COMPANIES LISTED ON THE PARALLEL MARKET	P.CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRADE
FINANCIAL SECTOR						
PEARL INV. CO.	0.098	—	—	—	—	—
GULF INV. CO.	0.041	—	—	—	—	—
GULF INTL. INS.	0.009	—	—	—	—	—
ARAB INT. CO.	0.055	—	—	—	—	—
SHARJAH INS.	0.000	—	—	—	—	—
GULF UNION INS.	0.055	—	—	—	—	—

INDUSTRIAL SECTOR	P.CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRADE
B-GULF MEDICAL	0.016	—	—	—	—	—
C-R.K. WHITE CHNT	0.022	—	—	—	—	—
D-AJMAN CEMENT	0.007	—	—	—	—	—
E-FUJAIRAH CEMENT	0.010	—	—	—	—	—
F-SHARJAH CEMENT	0.010	—	—	—	—	—
G-SHARJAH CEMENT	0.015	—	—	—	—	—
H-UNW QATWAIN	0.019	—	—	—	—	—

COMPANIES LISTED ON THE PARALLEL MARKET	P.CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRADE
FINANCIAL SECTOR						
PEARL INV. CO.	0.098	—	—	—	—	—
GULF INV. CO.	0.041	—	—	—	—	—
GULF INTL. INS.	0.009	—	—	—	—	—
ARAB INT. CO.	0.055	—	—	—	—	—
SHARJAH INS.	0.000	—	—	—	—	—
GULF UNION INS.	0.055	—	—	—	—	—

Frost and Couples share lead

HILTON HEAD, S.C., April 16, (Reuters) South Africa's David Frost and American Fred Couples took advantage of ideal weather and course conditions yesterday to share the second round lead of the \$700,000 Heritage Golf Classic.

Frost shot a seven-under-par 64 and Couples posted a 65 on the 6,657-yard Harbour Town Golf Links for totals of nine-under-par 133.

First round co-leader Greg Norman of Australia birdied two of his last three holes to end an uneven two-under-par round and was a stroke off the pace. Scott Hoch and Curt Byrum were tied with Norman at eight-under 134.

Paul Azinger, who was tied for the first round lead, was another stroke back at seven-under-par after shooting a 70. He was level with Chip Beck, Gil Morgan, Calvin Peete and Jim Hallet, who tied Jack Nicklaus and South African Nick Price's course record with a brilliant eight-under-par 63.

Attacked
Hallet birdied the par-four third hole to reach even-par, then attacked the course with birdies on six, seven, nine, 12, 13, 16 and 17.

"This has to go up there as one of my biggest thrills in golf," said the US tour rookie. "I played too conservative the first day but today I just played aggressive and it paid off."

Briton Sandy Lyle, in search of his third consecutive title following victory at the Greater Greensboro Open and last week's final-hole masters win, struggled again yesterday and was at even-par 142.

South Africa's Gary Player in 1978 was the last golfer to win three straight tournaments on the US Tour.

Zokol takes Canada past Venezuela

MONTEGO BAY, Jamaica, April 16, (Reuters) Richard Zokol yesterday led Canada to a 3-0 victory over Venezuela in the \$100,000 Dunhill Cup, America's qualifying tournament at the Half Moon Golf Club here.

Zokol began his round with an eagle and three birdies for a four-under-par 68 to easily beat Ramon Munoz by eight strokes.

"I have been practising a relaxed and calm approach recommended to me by Richard Lonetto, a professor to Toronto," Zokol said after his victory.

Extremely
His teammates, Dave Barr and Dan Hallidore, also won comfortably despite extremely windy conditions.

Mexico was upset by Brazil when Feliciano Esparrza lost a tie-breaking sudden death playoff.

Esparrza topped a fairway shot at the first extra hole and then hooked into a bunker to take six leaving Antonio Nascimento a winner with a par-5.

Four-way tie in Centinela golf tourney

LOS ANGELES, April 16, (Reuters) Amy Alcott overcame a terrible start yesterday to record a three-under-par 69 that was good enough for a share of first place at the \$400,000 Centinela Hospital Classic.

Patty Rizzo, Shelley Hamlin and Kelly Leadbetter were all tied with Alcott after the first round of this 54-hole event.

Struggled
Juli Inkster, Spazio's Marta Figueras-Dotti, Nina Foust and Lynn Adams were all one stroke behind the leaders at two-under-par 70. Nine players were another stroke back at one-under 71.

Alcott, who two weeks ago won the Dinah Shore Classic — the first major tournament on the US Women's Tour schedule, struggled early as she recorded three bogeys on her first four holes.

"I had a tough start," said Alcott.

Minoza takes 3-shot lead

SEOUL, April 16, (Reuters) Frauke Minoza of the Philippines shot a sparkling five-under-par 67 today, to take a three-stroke lead after the third round of the \$140,000 South Korean Open golf tournament.

Minoza, whose last Asian Tour victory was in the 1986 Indonesian Open, carded an eagle and five birdies as she stormed past overnight leader Rick Gibson of Canada.

Gibson slumped with a 75 for a total of 215, six shots off the pace. "If I keep my cool I should make the title," said Minoza, whose nearest challenger is South Korean Park Yeun-Tae, who had a 69 for 212.

GILBERT AND MAYOTTE OUT OF JAPANESE GP

McEnroe to meet Edberg in final



McEnroe: impressive victory

TOKYO, April 16, (Reuters) John McEnroe provided further evidence that he can still be a major force in men's tennis today when he beat American Brad Gilbert to reach the final of the Japanese Grand Prix.

Though McEnroe was some way short of his vintage best in winning 5-3 6-6 6-4, it was an impressive victory against Gilbert, who is currently ranked 15 places above him in the world rankings at number 10.

Rusty
But his seven-month lay-off due to suspension and injury left him noticeably rusty at times — especially in the second set — and McEnroe will have to be measurably sharper against Stefan Edberg in tomorrow's final.

The top-seeded Swede, ranked third in the world behind Ivan Lendl and compatriot Mats Wilander, scored an impressive 6-2 6-2 win over American Tim Mayotte in the other semifinal.

McEnroe's absence from the circuit has seen his ranking slip to 25th — the first time he has been out of the top 20 since 1977 — but his form and improved court

behaviour in this \$617,500 event suggest this latest comeback could be a stunning success.

"It was a hard-fought, exciting match," McEnroe said after his victory over Gilbert, adding with a touch of his old defiance: "The better man won."

Neither McEnroe nor Gilbert could find any consistent accuracy with their services and both men were broken repeatedly, more the result of poor serving than punishing returns.

Despite carrying a nagging ankle injury, Gilbert succeeded in capturing McEnroe's serve a remarkable total of eight times in the match, an unthinkable occurrence when the 29-year-old was at the peak of his powers.

After winning four games in a row at the start of the first set, McEnroe's early dominance disappeared. "I got off to a great start. God knows what happened," he said. "I lost my edge at 4-0 and Gilbert started to make things happen."

But McEnroe quickly put the second set debacle behind him by capturing Gilbert's serve to love

in the opening game of the third set and always held the initiative thereafter.

Though McEnroe has lost only once to Edberg in the past, the 22-year-old Swede is now firmly established in the world's top three and McEnroe admitted: "It's a different situation now... though going in as the underdog might help. But I certainly can't afford to serve like I did today."

Many tennis judges expect Edberg, twice winner of the Australian Open championship, to become world number one in future years, but the young Swede remains wary of McEnroe's special talent.

Watch

"To me he will always be a great player. He's tough with a lot of experience. You have to watch out for him, that's for sure," Edberg said.

The Swede, who dropped serve just once against the powerful but predictable Mayotte, was justifiably satisfied with his semifinal performance. "It was a lot easier than I expected. I played well and with a lot of confidence," he added.

PSV libero to miss Cup semifinal after UEFA ban

GENEVA, April 16, (Reuters) PSV Eindhoven's influential libero Ronald Koeman is to miss the second leg of the Dutch club's European Cup semifinal against Real Madrid because of suspension.

The European Football Union (UEFA) has handed Koeman a three-match ban because of remarks attributed to him in a magazine interview. He would also miss the European final if PSV overcame Real. They draw the first leg 1-1 in Madrid and clash in the return on Wednesday.

UEFA, announcing the suspension today, said in a statement after a control and disciplinary committee meeting in Zurich, that the three-match ban would apply to UEFA club competitions.

Censured

The punishment was for Koeman's "unsporting and disloyal remarks" made in an interview with the monthly Dutch magazine "Sport International," the statement said.

PSV Eindhoven was censured as clubs were responsible for the behaviour of players.

An appeal must be lodged by midnight April 19, UEFA said.

Koeman had earlier been asked by the government body of European soccer to explain his public support of a team-mate's foul on Bordeaux midfielder Jean Tigana in a European Cup tie last month.

Koeman was quoted by the magazine as saying the yellow card incurred by Hans Gillhaus for a foul on Tigana in the quarter-final first leg tie on March 2 was "worth gold."

PSV subsequently beat Bordeaux on the away goals rule to earn their semifinal against Real.

Results	National League	Postponed
Chicago	6 Pittsburgh	0
Montreal	6 Philadelphia	0
New York	3 St Louis	0
Cincinnati	4 Houston	0
Los Angeles	3 Atlanta	0
San Francisco	8 San Diego	3
American League		
Texas	3 Boston	2
New York	7 Milwaukee	2
Cleveland	3 Baltimore	1
California	5 Seattle	3
Chicago	11 Oakland	3
Kansas City	at Detroit	postponed
Minnesota	at Toronto	postponed

Orioles lose 10th straight game

NEW YORK, April 16, (AP) The O's are now 0-and-10.

The winless Baltimore Orioles lost their 10th straight game last night when Cleveland rallied in the eighth inning on Joe Carter's solo home run and Brook Jacoby's RBI single for a 3-2 victory.

While the Orioles got closer to winning, they also got closer to the worst opening in Major League history. Baltimore tied the 1968 Chicago White Sox for the third-poorest start and trail only the 1904 Washington Senators and 1920 Detroit Tigers, who each lost their first 13 games of the season.

"They are tough losses, but we're getting there," Orioles manager Frank Robinson said. "We're close. It's better than losing 12-0, [2-1]. It just takes a hit here or there and we'll break loose with some runs and win these games."

To do it, Baltimore will need some offense from Cal Ripken and Eddie Murray. Ripken, hitless in his last 21 at-bats, and

this year.

The Indians, meanwhile, are off to their best start in 22 years. They are 9-2, compared to 1-9 last season.

Yankees 7, Brewers 1
Jack Clark hit an RBI single in his first at-bat, sparking a five-run first inning as New York sent Milwaukee to its seventh straight loss.

The Yankees are off to their fastest start ever at 9-1 and have the best record in baseball. They won their fourth straight game with another early surge, having scored 18 runs in the first inning of the last five games.

Rangers 3, Red Sox 2
Steve Buechele hit a tying home run in the eighth inning and homered again in the 10th in Boston.

Charlie Hough, 2-1, pitched a three-hitter and got help from left fielder Pete Incaviglia, who threw out Marty Barrett at the plate to end the game. Barrett tried to score from second base on Ellis Burks' homer.

Buechele homered off Jeff

connected in the 10th against Wes Gardner, 0-1.

White Sox 11, Athletics 3

Ivan Calderon and Ken Williams each hit three-run homers and Chicago routed host Oakland. Ricky Horton, 2-1, gave up two runs, none of them earned, on seven hits in seven innings.

Angels 5, Mariners 3
Brian Downing broke out of an 0-for-18 slump with a solo homer that snapped a 3-3 tie in the eighth inning and led California past Seattle.

Downing's first homer came with two outs against Bill Wilkinson, 0-2. Devon White followed with an infield single and later scored on third baseman Jim Presley's throwing error.

Mike Witt, 1-1, gave up three runs, just one of them earned.

Cubs 6, Pirates 0
Andre Dawson and Rick Sutcliffe, a winning team for the Chicago Cubs last season, got things started right at Wrigley in 1988 yesterday.

Sulayem's European dates set

MOHAMMED Bin Sulayem's European outings are expected to be announced shortly. Reliable sources told the Arab Times that the 27-year-old Dubai driver is committed to four events driving the Marlboro Ford Sierra Cosworth, including one World Championship event, the Acropolis Rally.

This rally is becoming a favourite of the region's top stars. Saeed Al Hajri competed there, taking a fifth place on his 1985 excursion and a very impressive fourth position in 1986, while A-seeded drivers with supercars dropped out along the way. None of the local drivers could catch Al Hajri, who was nevertheless well adrift of the top three.

This event will be a stern test of

Sulayem's abilities, as however well he drives in the event, and whatever the level of competition this year, if he comes lower than fifth he will be considered to have achieved a poor result, if only because Al Hajri is there before him.

Expected

Indeed, the Qatari veteran is also considering competing in the rally, although his European events have not yet been finalised. This would give the event an up-grade Middle East status for the hordes of Dubai journalists who are expected to follow Sulayem to Athens. The Acropolis Rally runs from May 28 to June 2.

Sulayem's other three events are all rallies he competed in last year. These are the Gunaydin

Rally in Turkey, running from June 25 to 27, the Morocco Rally from July 21 and 24 and the Lotto di Bianchi Rally in the Charleroi region of Belgium from August 26 to 28. This year the timings do not affect his Middle East commitments.

Sulayem will certainly be out to improve on last year's results. In the Turkish rally he was forced to withdraw due to differential problems on his Sierra Cosworth. In Belgium he took fourth place, going on to take a frustrating second place in Morocco, after the stage which put him into the lead was cancelled.

Sulayem will drive the Toyota Celica in Jordan, Oman, and Dubai, and will possibly compete in the Lebanon round of the Middle East Championship. GS



Sulayem: committed to four events

Kuwait National Championship remains wide open

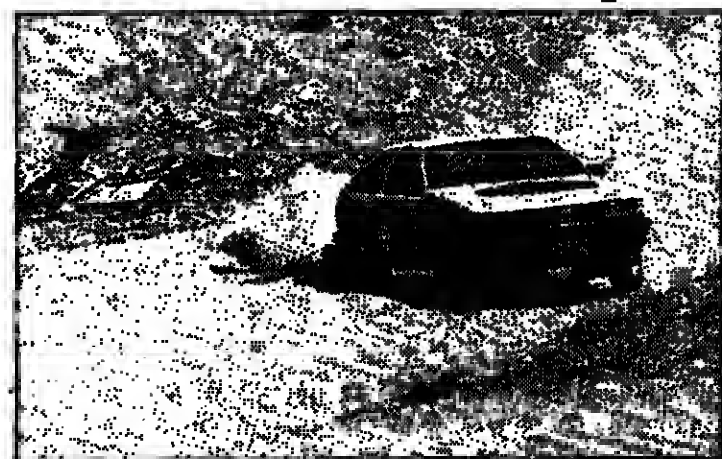
By Gail Seery

ALTHOUGH Friday's Kuwait local rally can be considered to have included quite a few surprises, it has not significantly altered the National Championship standings. With the non-participation of former leader Josef Miskulung, Faez Chihab takes the lead, and the Nissan driver drops to second place.

Chihab has a lead of thirteen points over Miskulung, which is certainly not an impossible gap to close, given that there are seven more rallies before the season officially ends in April 1989.

Changed

Not that it is very easy to determine exact championship standings this year. The rules changed at the beginning of this season, and instead of a January to December season as in the past, future seasons will run from Sep-



Al Hilal: current champion

tember to April. In order to facilitate the change over, an extra long season running from January 1988 to April 89 was decided on.

This gives drivers ten events to compete in, including two Inter-

national events which double points are awarded. Two poor events, including one International can be scratched, and only points from one International can be counted. Every driver must compete in one Inter-



Chihab: has a 13-point lead

national to qualify.

All this means that the championship is still very much up in the air, and that a driver like Wazzan, who has suffered two poor results due to car problems, could drop both results, and

always assuming that his problems are behind him, still sail on to win the championship. A number of drivers are in this position, including Ahmed Al Hilal, the current champion.

The third and fourth positions

are held by two consistent drivers. Alyan and Al Nasser are both easily capable of following Hilal's suit and taking the championship through solid placings and tenacity.

To the organizer's championship however, Klaus Schwinge-schloegl maintains his lead, adding two points to his previous score to make a total of 57 points. Hanan Chihab was unable to navigate for her husband for this event, and has 54 points. Otherwise the Navigator's Championship is identical on scoring with the Driver's Championship.

Standings in the National Championship after 3 rounds:

	R1	R2	R3	T
Faez Chihab	16	36	14	66
Josef Miskulung	7	48	—	55
Tareq Alyan	12	28	10	50
Ahmed Al Nasser	14	33	2	49
Sid Fahah	2	16	24	42
Nouri Al Hasawi	8	20	8	36
Ahmed Al Hilal	24	4	2	30
Jamal Masari	—	24	2	26
Tareq Al Wazzan	19	4	2	25
Mohd Al Hussein	2	4	19	25



Al Wazzan: could still win the championship



Al Alyan: consistent



Eid Fahah: running fifth



Sabatini: will attempt to halt Graf's march

Graf and Navratilova sail into semifinals

AMELIA ISLAND, Fla., April 16, (Reuters) World number one Steffi Graf and number two Martina Navratilova stayed on course for a showdown in tomorrow's tennis final as they crushed their quarterfinal opponents yesterday in under an hour.

The top-seeded Graf ousted sixth seed Katerina Maleeva of Bulgaria 6-2 6-0 in 55 minutes, while Navratilova, seeded second, needed one minute less to dismantle unseeded fellow American Kathleen Horvath 6-3 6-1.

Needed

The \$300,000 clay court tournament proceeded on form as third seed Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina and fourth-seeded West German Claudia Kohde-Kilsch also reached the semifinals.

Sabatini, who will attempt to halt Graf's march to the final, needed just 50 minutes to eliminate unseeded American Michelle Torres 6-1 6-1.

Navratilova will next face Kohde-Kilsch, a 6-3, 6-2 winner

over fifth-seeded American Zina Garrison.

Graf was in control throughout her match despite dropping the first and fifth games of the first set to Maleeva. The 18-year-old West German relinquished just 10 points in seven service games as she repeatedly set up easy forehand winners with her first serve.

Graf, who has not played Navratilova since losing the US Open final last September, said she would not make the mistake of looking past Sabatini, who beat the West German for the first time last month.

Eager
"She's (Sabatini) number five and she beat me last time. I'm much more eager this time," said Graf.

Navratilova despatched Horvath by coming in behind her first serve. She also broke Horvath, 42 in the world, once in the first set and three times in the second set.

Sabatini was equally impressive in her baseline match with Torres.

Cavaliers end Celtics 8-game winning streak

RICHFIELD, Ohio, April 16, (AP) Brad Daugherty scored 17 of his career-high 44 points in the fourth quarter last night as Cleveland overcame an early 17-point deficit and ended the Boston Celtics' eight-game winning streak, 120-109.

The victory was the Cavaliers' eighth in their last 10 National Basketball Association games and gave them a 3-2 edge over Boston in the season series. Cleveland's first series win over the Celtics since 1977-78.

Larry Bird led Boston with 30 points.

Bulls 100, Nets 99:
Michael Jordan scored 28 points, including a jumper with 20 seconds to play, to give the Chicago Bulls their fourth straight victory, a 100-99 win over the New Jersey Nets.

Jordan, the NBA's leading scorer with 34.7 points per game, had eight points in the fourth quarter. His game-winning basket came when he hit a shot over Nets centre Tim McCormick.

The victory was Chicago's sixth in a row on the road. The

Nets have lost 13 of their last 14 and their last 12 in a row.

Pistons 92, Bucks 91:
Reserve forward Dennis Rodman scored 14 of his 18 points in the second half to lead the Detroit Pistons to their fifth victory in six games, 92-91 over Milwaukee. The Bucks, led by 28 points by Jack Sikma, have lost five consecutive road games and eight of their last 10 games.

Nuggets 132, Rockets 125:
Danny Schayes scored a career-high 32 points and Michael Adams hit five 3-point baskets en route to 26 points as Denver rallied from a 20-point third-period deficit to defeat the Houston Rockets 132-125.

Fat Lever had 28 points and Alex English 26 to help the Nuggets to their 13th victory in their last 14 games.

Results			
Cleveland	120	Boston	109
Chicago	100	New Jersey	99
Atlanta	103	Philadelphia	101
Detroit	92	Milwaukee	91
Washington	106	New York	97
San Antonio	116	Sacramento	112
Denver	132	Houston	125
LA Lakers	117	Phoenix	114
Portland	147	Golden State	113
Seattle	115	Dallas	88

French awards for Johnson and Kostadinova

PARIS, April 16, (Reuters) World athletics champions Ben Johnson of Canada and Stefka Kostadinova were awarded top French sports awards for 1987, the sports daily L'Equipe reported yesterday.

Johnson, who obliterated the world 100 metres record when he won the world title in Rome last August, was awarded the Grand Prix de L'Academie des Sports.

Kostadinova, who broke the women's world high jump record the same evening as Johnson's exploit, received the Prix Monique Berlioux, the top women's award named after the former director of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

Irish cyclist Stephen Roche, who won the tours of France and Italy and the World Championship Road Race, was awarded the Prix de Guy Widenstein.

Johansson's predecessors include fellow athletes Daley Thompson of Britain, Edwin Moses of the United States and Sergei Buhka of the Soviet Union.

Paris-Dakar Rally

PARIS, April 16, (Reuters) French team Peugeot, whose win in the Paris-Dakar Rally in January was soured by disqualification of their defending champion, said yesterday they would compete again in the next edition of the controversial race.

Juha Kankkunen gained Peugeot's second straight victory after fellow Finn Ari Vatanen, the 1986 champion, had been disqualified following the theft of his car.

SPORTS

IMRAN TAKES ALL FOUR WICKETS

Richards, Hooper rescue W. Indies

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, April 16. (Reuters) Captain Viv Richards and Carl Hooper led a West Indies recovery on the third day of the second cricket Test against Pakistan today, taking their side to a lead of 143 at lunch.

Richards, 66 not out, and Hooper, 22 not out, came together after Richie Richardson was caught behind off the final ball of the first over of the day.

They put on 82 in 113 minutes in a fifth wicket stand that took West Indies to 163 for four at the interval in their second innings.

Edged
West Indies, resuming at 78 for three, lost Richardson for 40 when he edged a wide delivery from Pakistan captain Imran Khan.

Imran, who took all four wickets, led a public show of dissent when he lost a confident leg before appeal against Richards.

Imran refused to walk back to his mark and remonstrated loudly with umpire Clyde Cumberbatch. Three minutes elapsed, with Salim Yousuf and Javed Miandad getting involved in the argument, before Imran howled the next ball.

The West Indies captain, looking a little rusty after a month's absence from the game, had a number of other near misses including a possible catching



Richards leads W. Indies recovery

chance to slip on 55. Javed Miandad, trying to anticipate an edge, moved too quickly and was out of position when the opportunity came.

Yesterday Imran, having dismissed Des Haynes for nought in his first over, induced Greenidge to hook straight to the wider of two long legs for 29 and Gus Logie to play on for a single.

had been completed. Winston Benjamin dug one in short to Ijaz who fended the ball over Gus Logie's head at short leg only to see the tiny Trinidadian scamper back to take a brilliant running catch.

Imran was similarly undone by a short ball speared into his ribs by Malcolm Marshall. Logie accepted a dolly catch at short leg.

The Malik-Yousuf partnership was by some way the biggest of the match so far. Yousuf, now arguably the best wicketkeeper/batsman in the world ahead of the currently inconsistent Dujon, was missed by his opposite number off Marshall on only three. He went on to make a vital 39.

Malik's composed and price-less knock of 66 off 99 balls with eight fours was immensely frustrating to a West Indian attack, lacking a specialist spinner.

Ironically, it was Carl Hooper's occasional off-spin that accounted for Malik, who was caught off bat/pad at short leg giving Logie his third catch of the day.

A last wicket stand of 24 between Wasim Akram and Abdul Qadir gave Pakistan a first-innings lead that appeared so improbable when Marshall was at full throttle in the morning.

Scoreboard

WEST INDIES first innings 174

(V. Richards 49, Imran Khan four for 38, Abdul Qadir four for 83)

PAKISTAN first innings (over-

nights 55 for five)

Rameez Raja c Richardson b Mar-

shall 1

Mudassar Nazar c Haynes b Mar-

shall 14

Shoaib Mohammad c Richards b

Ambrose 12

Javed Miandad b Benjamin 18

Ijaz Fazli c Richards b Benjamin 0

Salim Malik c Logie b Hooper 66

Ejaz Ahmed c Logie b Benjamin 3

Imran Khan c Logie b Marshall 39

Salim Yousuf c Dujon b Marshall 39

Wasim Akram run out 7

Abdul Qadir not out 17

Extras (b-l-b-4-nb-8) 13

Total (all out) 194

Fall of wickets: 1-3 2-25 3-46 4-49

5-50 6-62 7-68 8-162 9-170

IAAF want BAAB to ban Budd for one year

LONDON, April 16. (Reuters) Zola Budd faces a 12-month ban from all competition following a meeting of the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) council today.

The council said Budd had breached the spirit of the rules of the IAAF and, although it stopped short of imposing the ban itself, urged the British Amateur Athletic Board (BAAB) to do so with immediate effect.

If not, the world governing body said it would "consider the matter further."

Responded

IAAF secretary John Holt said the BAAB had been asked not to allow Budd to compete internationally over the next four weeks until the board had responded to their queries.

He went on: "Having regard to the interests of international athletics, the council is of the view the BAAB ought to consider a suspension from international athletics of at least 12 months beginning today."

An IAAF statement added: "If the BAAB fails to take such action as is necessary the council will have to consider exercising its suspensive powers against the BAAB. It will also consider the matter of Miss Budd further."

The IAAF said Budd, born in South Africa but a British citizen, had breached one of their rules by "taking part" in an athletics meeting in the republic last year.

The 23-strong council, after deliberating for nearly seven hours, said it was unhappy at the way Budd's conduct had been "regulated."

The IAAF statement went on: "It was clear Miss Budd greatly exceeded the bounds of being a mere spectator at a cross-country meeting at Brakpan, South Africa."

"Not only was she there in her training gear, but she trained on and near the course in full view of the crowd and at one stage by her own admission actually ran alongside ineligible runners in order to support them."

"The council is particularly concerned by Miss Budd's frater-



Budd faces ban

nising, within a sporting environment, with members of a suspended federation from a country which openly practices racial and other kinds of discrimination in open violation of IAAF principles and rules."

If the ban is implemented, Budd will miss the Olympic Games in Seoul in September, next year's World Cross-country Championships, and could mean the end of her athletics career.

Budd, 21, who has vigorously denied the charges, was not at the hearing.

The BAAB have called an emergency meeting for April 24 to consider the instruction to suspend Budd.

History
Spokesman Tony Ward said: "We are facing one of the most serious matters in the board's history and it would be unwise to comment before the meeting."

"We have always taken the view Zola did not break the rules, but now the IAAF have put a wider interpretation on them and that is obviously definitive."

Ward would not be drawn on the possibility of Britain's athletics team being banned from the Olympics if they failed to suspend Budd but commented: "That is a long way down the road, but it is obviously a serious threat."

Martin upsets Jansher

WEMBLEY, England, April 16. (AP) Jansher Khan, the world champion from Pakistan, suffered an upset defeat in the quarter-finals of the British Open Squash Championships today, going down in five games to the No. 5 seed from Australia, Rodney Martin.

The 18-year-old Jansher was beaten 9-6, 1-9, 9-4, 5-9, 9-5 in an 88-minute exhibition of superb squash.

Martin, the first player to beat Jansher twice this season, said: "I'm sure I can win the title. It is one of my big goals — and that's what I'm here for. But there's a lot of hard squash ahead."

The 22-year-old from Sydney, one of the best stroke-makers in the men's game, looked set to wrap the match up when he led 5-1 in the fourth game. But Jansher hit back to level and then went 3-

1 up in the decider. Martin, who was beaten by defending champion Jahangir Khan in five games in last year's semifinal, said: "I was determined not to let it happen again and crumble in the fifth. I told myself to hang in there and give it all I had."

Benefitting from some uncharacteristic Jansher errors, the Australian kept his cool and fought back to clinch victory.

Martin now meets New Zealander Ross Norman in Sunday's semifinal. The 29-year-old former champion had a comfortable straight games victory over another Australian, sixth seeded Chris Robertson.

In the women's section, Susan Devoy stayed on course for her fifth consecutive title, beating Sarah Fitzgerald in the quarter-finals.

Tranmere beat Wimbledon and Newcastle

Celtic fail to clinch Scottish title

LONDON, April 16. (Reuters) Glasgow Celtic failed to secure the one point they needed to clinch their 35th Scottish League soccer title when they were beaten 2-1 at nearest challengers Hearts today.

With the English League programme blank because of the special centenary festival tournament at Wembley, Celtic had the spotlight to themselves.

But Hearts, whose Scottish Cup ambitions were shattered by a 2-1 semifinal defeat at the hands of Celtic last week, took their revenge by wrecking the Glasgow club's party.

The result ended an unbeaten run by Celtic of 31 games and they now have to wait another week to try again for the single point they still need.

Denied
Hearts can catch Celtic by winning their last three games, but to be denied the title Celtic would have to lose all three of their own while surrendering the eight-goal difference advantage they currently enjoy over Hearts.

Mike Galloway's 26th minute goal, following a fumble by goalkeeper Pat Bonner, put Hearts into the lead.

Captain Gary Mackay fired in a second with the help of a slight deflection in the 71st minute to make it 2-0.

Celtic's Mark McGhee, who had scored three times against Hearts in this season's meetings, made it four with a 74th minute effort in which keeper Henry Smith looked at fault.

The equaliser never came but Celtic should collect the point they need next Saturday at home to mid-table Dundee.

In England, the Football League centenary festival spread

over two days threw together 16 teams from the four divisions in a series initially of 40-minute games.

There were some surprises. Fourth Division Tranmere Rovers reached tomorrow's semifinals after two victories over First Division opposition in the shape of FA Cup finalists Wimbledon (1-0) and Newcastle United (2-0).

Earlier Newcastle had beaten Liverpool, fielding nine first team regulars, on penalties after a goalless draw to end the champion elect's hopes of another Wembley triumph.

Luton, who will be back at Wembley in eight days time for the League Cup final against Arsenal, suffered a blow when defender Mal Donaghy was taken off on a stretcher in a 2-0 defeat by Manchester United.

Attendance at the festival, which marks the centenary of the English Football League, rose from 5,000 in the morning to 40,000 by mid-afternoon.

Yesterday, Watford kept alive their slim hopes of avoiding relegation from the English First Division with a surprise 1-0 away win over League Cup finalists Arsenal.

The result lifted Watford off the bottom and above Oxford on goal difference, but they must still win their three remaining games to stand any chance of staying up.

Their winner came from Rick Holden 14 minutes from the end of a drab match. It was his second goal for the club since his transfer from Fourth Division Halifax just before last month's transfer deadline.

Watford, and goalkeeper

Tony Coton in particular, had spent most of the game soaking up pressure from an Arsenal side looking for a morale-boosting win in their last match before meeting Luton in the League Cup final at Wembley on April 24.

Arsenal will be without Ireland international David O'Leary for the final.

Manager George Graham said after yesterday's game that the experienced central defender would go into hospital next week for an operation on the Achilles tendon which has troubled him since Christmas.

Results	
Scottish Premier Division	
Dundee	2 Falkirk 2
Dunfermline	2 St Mirren 1
Hearts	2 Celtic 1
Morton	0 Aberdeen 2
Motherwell	4 Dundee U 2
Rangers	2 Hibernian 1
Scottish Division One	
Airdrie	1 Raith 2
Clyde	0 Kilmarnock 0
Clydebank	0 Meadowbank 2
East Fife	1 Hamilton 0
Forfar	1 Partick 0
Queen of S	0 Dumbarton 0
Scottish Division Two	
Alloa	1 Ayr 3
E. Stirling	1 Stirling 3
Montrose	1 Berwick 0
Queen's Park	1 Cowdenbeath 0
St Johnstone	4 Arbroath 0
Stenhousemuir	4 Brechin 0
Stranraer	2 Albion 2
Results of matches played on Friday:	
Arsenal	1 Watford 1
Plymouth	0 Barnsley 0
English Division Three	
Aldershot	3 Port Vale 0
Blackpool	4 Doncaster 2
Brighton	3 Northampton 0
Fulham	1 Chester 0
York	0 Bristol R 4
English Division Four	
Cardiff	1 Bolton 0
Crewe	0 Cambridge 0
Torquay	0 Colchester 0
Results in the English Football League centenary festival at Wembley:	
Tranmere	1 Wimbledon 0
Newcastle	0 Liverpool 0
(Newcastle won 1-0 on penalties)	
Leeds	0 Notts Forest 3
Blackburn	0 Aston Villa 0
(Aston Villa won 2-1 on penalties)	
Phase one quarter-finals	
Tranmere	2 Newcastle 0
Notts Forest	0 Aston Villa 0
(Forest won 1-0 on penalties)	

Standings

Scottish League soccer tables after matches played today (tabulate under against, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points):

Premier Division

Celtic 41 28 10 3 74 23 66

Hearts 41 22 14 4 74 31 60

Rangers 41 24 8 9 77 33 56

Aberdeen 40 20 15 5 58 23 55

Dundee U 40 14 13 16 44 41

Dundee 41 17 6 18 70 60

Hibernian 40 10 17 13 35 37

Motherwell 41 13 8 20 36 54

St Mirren 41 15 18 39 61 31

Falkirk 40 8 11 21 35 67

Dunfermline 41 8 9 24 39 80 25

Morton 41 3 10 28 25 89 16

Division One

Hamilton 41 22 11 8 65 34 55

Meadowbank 41 20 11 10 67 45 51

Clydebank 41 19 6 16 52 57 44

Raith 41 18 7 16 75 68 43

Airdrie 41 15 13 13 61 43

Forfar 41 13 16 12 62 58 42

Partick 41 16 9 16 60 59 41

Queen of S 41 12 15 14 49 62 39

Clyde 41 16 6 19 71 72 38

Kilmarnock 41 11 11 19 49 56 33

East Fife 41 12 6 21 57 74 32

Dumbarton 41 10 11 20 44 68 31

Division Two

Ayr 36 27 6 3 94 28 60

St Johnstone 36